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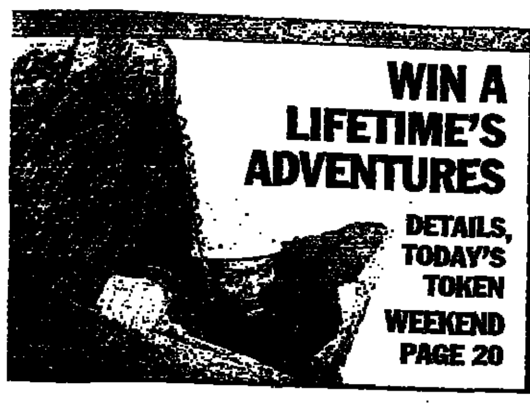

WIN A LIFETIME'S ADVENTURES

DETAILS, TODAY'S TOKEN WEEKEND PAGE 20

BACHELOR OF ARTS

MATTHEW PARRIS MEETS IAN McKELLEN

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WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO LE MANS

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DOES YOUR DOG NEED A PERSONAL TRAINER?

WEEKEND, PAGE 9

Judgment threatens security services

Traitor Blake can profit from memoir

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

Blake: treachery cost lives of British agents

THE Government reacted with astonishment yesterday when a High Court judge ruled that George Blake, the traitor who lives in Moscow, should be allowed to receive £90,000 in royalties from the sale of his memoirs.

The judgment by Sir Richard Scott, who headed the arms-for-Iraq inquiry, cast doubt on the Government's policy of binding members of the intelligence and security services to lifelong silence.

In giving judgment, Sir Richard, the Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division, said the Crown's insistence on a lifelong duty of fidelity for members of the intelligence and security service represented "an interference with rights of free expression".

Yesterday's ruling dismissed the case brought by Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, who had applied to recover the money from the sale of *No Other Choice*, written by Blake, the former Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) officer who worked for the former Soviet KGB. The book, published by Jonathan Cape in 1991, sold 17,000 of the 19,000 copies printed.

The Government did not take legal action at the time of publication to stop its sale — as it tried and failed to do with *Spycatcher*, written by Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer.

The Attorney-General did threaten legal action against Jonathan Cape, however, unless it undertook not to send royalties to Blake. The publisher agreed but the Government took legal action to recover profits from the book.

Reacting to yesterday's reserved judgment in favour of Blake and Jonathan Cape, which did not defend the action, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said he felt "depressing shock".

Speaking on BBC Radio's *World At One*, he said: "I just find the decision depressing. Here is a guy who took advantage of his privileged position in the intelligence services to sell out British interests."

Blake, he said, was a convicted traitor. He had sent people to their death who were acting on behalf of Britain's interests and he was making a profit out of it. "I think, as a layman, people will be bemused and depressed that such a decision could be taken," he said.

He said the judgment would be studied carefully before a decision was made whether to appeal. A Cabinet Office official said the judgment raised important issues about the "ability of a member of the intelligence agencies, who was found guilty of gross betrayal of his country, to profit from his wrongdoing".

Lifelong confidentiality imposed on former members of MI6, MI5 and GCHQ, the Government's signals intelligence centre, became a contractual obligation in 1987, after the publication of *Spycatcher*, which featured allegations about MI5 activities in the 1950s and 1960s. The obligation was enshrined in the Intelligence Services Act 1994. Sir Richard also presided in the *Spycatcher* case.

Blake, now 73 and living in relative poverty in a flat in Moscow, was responsible for the deaths of several British agents after he became a Russian spy, following his capture by North Koreans and conversion to communism.

The High Court judgment was passed on to Blake by his son Misha, who said his father was pleased.

Under the law, no criminal is allowed to profit from his crime while serving his sentence, although his family is entitled to sell his story. This happened recently in the Rosemary West case.

Despite the judgment, there seemed little likelihood that Blake would receive all the royalties. So far he has been paid about £35,000 as an advance. However, Benedict Birnberg, his solicitor, said the cash had been shared between his three sons in Britain and Misha, his son by his second wife, whom Blake married after escaping to Moscow from Wormwood Scrubs in 1966.

A spokeswoman for Jonathan Cape said £40,000 of the remaining £90,000 would be deducted for legal expenses. There are no plans to reprint the book. Mr Birnberg has also lodged a claim for his legal expenses over the past two years.

While accepting the right of the Government to stop confidential information from being disclosed, Sir Richard said: "The Crown have not, in my judgment, either pleaded or established by evidence any

Continued on page 2, col 6

DES JENSON

ADRIAN BROOKS

Ballerina Bussell: "stunned" at political association. Milliner Treacy: success "nothing to do with the Government"

Tory achievers? Not us say Look! stars

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

SCUNTHORPE UNITED F.C.
LOOK!
TAX BONANZA FOR MILLIONS

Sellars: "I certainly would not vote Conservative". Scunthorpe: turned down

Look!, the Tories' breezy good news tabloid designed to trumpet the truth about the Government's achievements, was looking distinctly frayed at the edges last night only 24 hours after its launch.

People depicted in the 16-page newspaper as examples of success because of the Government rushed yesterday to dissociate themselves from the claim. Others said they would vote anything but Tory.

Darcy Bussell, 27, principal ballerina at the Royal Ballet, who decorated the front page, was "one of the success stories of the Government's music and ballet scheme". In fact, her means-tested grant to attend the Royal Ballet School was withdrawn after a year at the age of 14.

Her father, a west London dentist, paid for the next three. "*She is stunned to discover that she has been associated with any political party*," a friend said yesterday.

Scunthorpe United football club, which according to *Look!* could afford to move to a new ground because of government changes in the football betting levy and grants in 1990, was turned down for help. "They could not have got it more wrong. We moved in 1988," said Don Rowing, the chief executive.

"Grants were given to football clubs after the Taylor report into the Hillsborough disaster to build all-seater stadia. As we had already built one we applied retrospectively. We were turned down."

Shearer Sellars, a Swindon businessman hailed as a success because of Tory economic polices, said: "The Government's record is so bad I certainly could not vote Conservative. They don't deserve it."

Mr Sellars, the founder of Boxes and Packaging, said: "My bank manager asked me to do the interview. I never knew it was for the Tories. It's like agreeing to play in a football match and then discovering that the referee is biased. I was misquoted and misrepresented."

Milliner Phillip Treacy was surprised to have been labelled a success story in a double-page spread on the re-

Continued on page 2, col 3

Israelis issue red alert to citizens abroad

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

ISRAEL last night issued a red alert to all Jewish citizens travelling abroad and Jewish institutions overseas to be on guard for expected revenge attacks after Thursday's massacre of Arabs sheltering at a United Nations base in southern Lebanon.

In an unprecedented move, all Israelis leaving the country were handed leaflets advising them how to avoid attack.

The warning came as the world's most powerful leaders, meeting at the Moscow summit, threw their weight behind diplomatic efforts to halt the continued fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

John Major called for a ceasefire as did President Yeltsin who dispatched Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, to the Levant to help to mediate an end to the fighting. He follows Washington's top Middle East expert, Dennis Ross.

Israeli sources said that any revenge attack would result in unspecified "drastic" retaliation, which some Western diplomats believe could be a pre-emptive strike at Iran.

Israel's secret service, Mossad, is taking seriously a broadcast last Sunday on Hezbollah's al-Manar television, which showed about 70 suicide bombers pledging to target Israel and the United States. Many senior Israeli officials believe such a spectacular attack is inevitable.

Following the Moscow summit's call for a ceasefire, the American, Russian, French and Italian Foreign Ministers will meet in the Syrian capital, Damascus, today, while in Lebanon, UN officials were clearing up the carnage as the air reverberated to the sound of Israeli shells.

Tension between Israel and Iran was exacerbated by reports that the mullahs had ordered Hezbollah to continue their struggle against Israel and "nests of Zionism".

Troops grieve, pages 12, 13
Letters, page 21

Referee at fault

A rugby referee failed in his duty to a teenager injured in a match, a judge ruled .... Page 3

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Brown tackles school 'elite'

By Philip Webster, political editor

A SHAKEUP of Britain's £9 billion higher and further education system to make it relevant to the masses rather than an elite was promised last night by Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor.

A Labour government would end the problem of the 16-plus "national education lottery" which excludes millions from opportunities because their families cannot afford to keep them at school, he said in Edinburgh. It will carry out a comprehensive review of all aspects of the funding of post-16 education, including grants, loans, fees, educational maintenance allowances and the use of tax reliefs. The ambitious aim is to prevent anyone being denied post-16 education because of poverty.

And, as *The Times* disclosed yesterday, child benefit paid to 1.1 million young people aged 16, 17 and 18 will end, with the projected £700 million saving being transferred into training. Even before Mr Brown delivered the John Smith memorial lecture at Edinburgh University the child benefit plan had come under attack. The Child Poverty Action Group condemned the proposal to scrap the £10.40 a week payment to the mothers of children who stay on at school, asking how if the benefit was removed were people's basic needs to be met. What was needed was a wide-ranging

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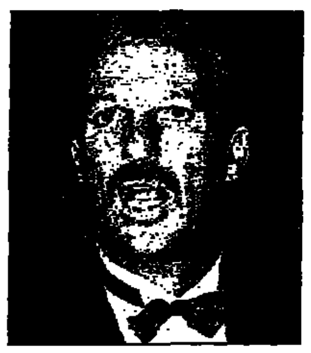
Leading article, page 21

Botham to coach would-be heirs



Botham: arriving at a reception this week

By Alan Lee

IAN BOTHAM, who this week failed in his attempt to become an England cricket selector, will, after all, be offered a role with the Test team. The most charismatic player of the past 20 years is likely to be asked to take on specific coaching duties before this summer's matches against India and Pakistan.

Although there is a general sense of relief in high places that Botham and his restless nature were not miscast on the selection panel, it is also agreed that his talents should not be wasted. David Lloyd, the new England coach, and Michael Atherton, the captain, are keen to enlist him.

His job, I understand, could involve individual coaching of the players whose styles most closely resemble his own — Dominic Cork and Darren Gough. Both admit to having idolised him.

The approval of Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors and a man frequently criticised by Botham, will be sought this weekend but may not be strictly necessary.

Botham, 40, has done himself few favours by apparently reacting bitterly to his rejection as a selector, going so far as to accuse the Test and County Cricket Board of a "dirty tricks campaign".

Yesterday, however, he denied the remarks attributed to him in a tabloid newspaper and repeated his enthusiasm. "They only have to ring me," he said.

Atherton optimism, page 48

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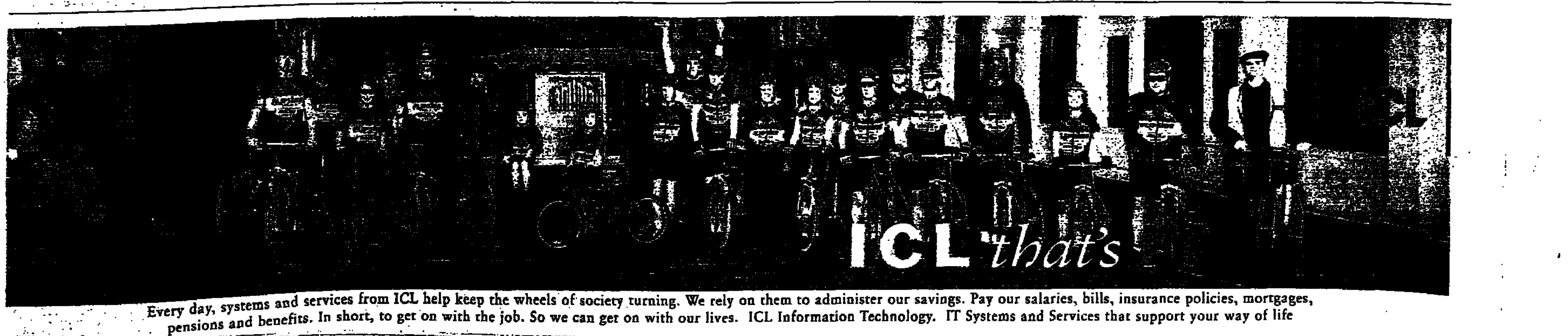

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MATTHEW PARRIS, COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

HOW TO COLLECT COMPLIMENTARY LANGUAGE TAPES

Belgium 'unsafe', says asylum judge

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

FIVE asylum seekers were saved from deportation yesterday after a judge ruled that Belgium was not a safe country for them to be sent to.

Under government policy, any asylum seeker who travels through Belgium on the way to Britain should be sent back there if an application fails, since refugee status can then be sought in Belgium without any danger.

But Mr Justice Hidden granted orders to a refugee from Togo, an Iraqi and three Turkish Kurds, quashing decisions by immigration appeal adjudicators refusing asylum. The judge said he was unable to agree that Belgium was definitely safe as there were "unresolved, conflicting opinions" on whether its eight-day limit for asylum claims was counted from the date of first entry or the date of return. This could mean refugees faced being deported to countries where they feared persecution.

The ruling was one of two cases yesterday which immigration lawyers forecast could have ramifications for other asylum seekers. In the second case, Mr Justice Dyson quashed deportation orders against two Tamils who had suffered torture from Sri Lankan security forces.

The two were about to be deported to Sri Lanka because the Home Office said there was no longer any threat to Tamils from the Government. But fresh fighting began earlier this year.

The men made a new application which the Home Office rejected as a repeat of their original application. The judge said the new circumstances meant that the applications were fresh and should have been taken as new.

Last night the Home Office played down the significance of the two cases but said both judgments would be studied. Officials said the Belgian case rested on a decision by adjudicators. In the second case, the judge said that no blame should be aimed at the Home Office because officials were acting on existing case law when they took their decision.

Labour may give 16-year-olds cash to stay at school

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

A PIONEERING scheme that greatly increased the number of 16-year-olds staying on at school by giving them £300 grants is being explored by Labour as a way of using child benefit savings to raise education standards.

Up to 40 per cent of pupils disappeared from education and training systems in Cardiff after reaching the statutory school leaving age until the means-tested grants were introduced by South Glamorgan County Council.

Hundreds of extra teenagers were persuaded to stay on at school or college after the initiative to motivate youngsters was introduced by the council in September 1994, one of a group of local authorities analysed by Labour as a testbed for education policies.

As well as paying grants, eight schools began to offer high-quality vocational courses, run by a Cardiff further education college, and mentors from industry were appointed to advise students taking up the grants.

Head teachers yesterday lost a High Court attempt to stop Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, from requiring schools to contribute to teacher training. The National Association of Head Teachers argued that it was further education and fell outside the legal scope of school budgets. Mr Justice Hidden agreed with the Department of Education that schools had always been involved in the training of teachers.

Fitzalan High School, in inner-city Cardiff, saw the numbers staying on after 16 rise from 146 in 1993-94 to 225 in 1995-96 after the grant was introduced.

Tom Davies, director of education for Cardiff council, which took over part of the South Glamorgan area after local government reorganisation, said staying-on rates improved dramatically and the new council wanted to extend the scheme.

"Students on family income support or having free school meals were targeted during their year at school and grants offered to them," he added.

The council, which was part of a group of authorities studied by David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, found £200,000 to fund the scheme.

St David's Sixth-Form College in Cardiff has more than a hundred students — about one in eight — who receive the grant. Dominic Bryon, its principal, said: "We have a number of students from more difficult environments and as a marginal influence this is very significant.

"It can tip the balance towards staying on in education. I know of individual cases where it has made a big difference, for example in households where both parents are unemployed or where there is a big problem of income. The staying-on rates have improved considerably."

RUSSELL BOYCE

Sir Richard Scott, who ruled in favour of George Blake

Labour education strategy

Continued from page 1

strategy to tackle the cause of poverty and effects — not redistribution of money between vulnerable groups.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, denounced the plan as "lightweight nonsense". Mr Brown was going round and round to satisfy the various lobbies in the Labour and trade union movement, he said. Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, said Labour would be taking £500 a year out of the pockets of a family with a 16-year-old child in education. Diane Abbott, Labour National Executive Committee member and Left-winger, said: "It makes no sense to shuffle money from one set of poor people to another because we are too frightened to raise taxes for the better-off." For the Liberal Democrats, Liz Lynne said abolition of child benefit would reduce opportunities for many 16-year-olds.

Mr Brown said that Labour wanted to end the position where young people got their one chance at 16 and either entered higher education or lost out and got no further education and training. "In place of the old style, one-off equality of opportunity — the one strike and you are out opportunity — we need lifetime, recurrent, permanent opportunities: second, third, fourth and fifth chances that up the prospect of opportunities at any stage, at any place, at any time and for any study. "The current system of post-school funding was built for the days of an elite and must now change for the world of mass education."

Leading article, page 21

Blake can profit

Continued from page 1

misuse by the defendant of his position as a former member of the SIS or of information imparted to him in that capacity."

Philip Havers, QC, representing the Attorney-General, had told Sir Richard that Blake had broken his trust with the SIS by writing a book that dealt with his career at SIS, known as MI6, between 1947 and 1961, his arrest and conviction for spying in 1961, his escape from jail in 1966 and his life in Russia.

He said although there was no breach of confidence — Blake had already told the Russians all the secrets he knew as a spy — he still had a fiduciary duty. This duty of trust to his former SIS employers surpassed his right to free speech, Mr Havers said.

Sir Richard ruled, however, that the Crown had tried to establish a case on "what was far too broad a statement of the duty owed by ex-members of intelligence and security agencies".

He said the case had established that former members of the security or intelligence services owed the Crown a lifelong duty not to disclose confidential information. Once the information had ceased to be secret, however, the duty of confidence was extinguished.

Sir Richard said rights of free expression were safeguarded by Article 10 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

From 1951 until his arrest in 1960 Blake "betrayed his country" by disclosing secret information and documents to the Soviet Union. On May 3, 1961, he pleaded guilty to five counts of unlawfully communicating information contrary to the Official Secrets Act and was sentenced to 42 years in prison.

Tory achievers? Not us say people in Look!

Continued from page 1

emergence of the British fashion industry — thanks to the support of Michael Heseltine. "It's nothing to do with the Government if I am successful," he said yesterday.

"Michael Heseltine's support is a public relations stunt. There is great creativity in British fashion but no money around for people to buy our designs. We have to sell them abroad."

Look! claims the relaxation in licensing laws had led to a renaissance for the British pub. A spokesman for the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association said: "Since 1979 the amount of beer sold in pubs has fallen by 25 per cent and about 5,000 pubs have closed." Under the Tories "We are a nation of happy and sophisticated shopkeepers". The British Retail Consortium said: "In the last 15 years the number of retail units has fallen from 350,000 to 300,000."

Charles Lewington, the Tory party's director of communications, and architect of the publication, says he wrote to the hapless victims saying: "The press is much criticised for misquoting people and giving misleading information. In the interests of good journalism and accuracy I am sending you a copy of the story in which you feature."

John Major declared *Look!* was being produced to "give the people the True facts about the economy, the True facts behind that success story, and the True facts about the future".

Conservative Central Office said yesterday that 100,000 copies of the tabloid would still be distributed to party members this weekend. "We never suggested the people were paid-up Tories. They are success stories," it said.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, was gleeful. "The ballerina has done a pirouette and run a mile."

Man fined £15,000 for smuggling to Iran

Terence Howe, 60, was fined £15,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,000 for smuggling aircraft and helicopter parts to Iranian government procurement agencies. He had admitted the offence at Winchester Crown Court.

His co-accused, David Hartridge, 58, an aircraft engineer, was fined £500. Equipment that included parts for three types of military helicopters and the F4 fighter bomber were sent to Iran by an Isle of Wight company called British Hovercraft and Marine Consultants, of which Howe was the sole proprietor.

New Tennant

The British model Stella Tennant, who is the granddaughter of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, has been selected by Chanel as its face for the autumn and winter collection. The French fashion house said the 22-year-old was "the perfect look for now".

Landlord guilty

A landlord accused of the manslaughter of Tracey Murphy, 19, a tenant who died from carbon monoxide poisoning, has changed his plea to guilty at Sheffield Crown Court. Thomas Beedie, of Cottingham, near Hull, will be sentenced on Monday.

Murder review

The Government rejected any change to the law on murder after a 14-month review prompted by the case of Private Lee Clegg. It had considered an intermediate sentence between murder and acquittal when a defendant killed in self-defence or to prevent crime.

Girl saves life

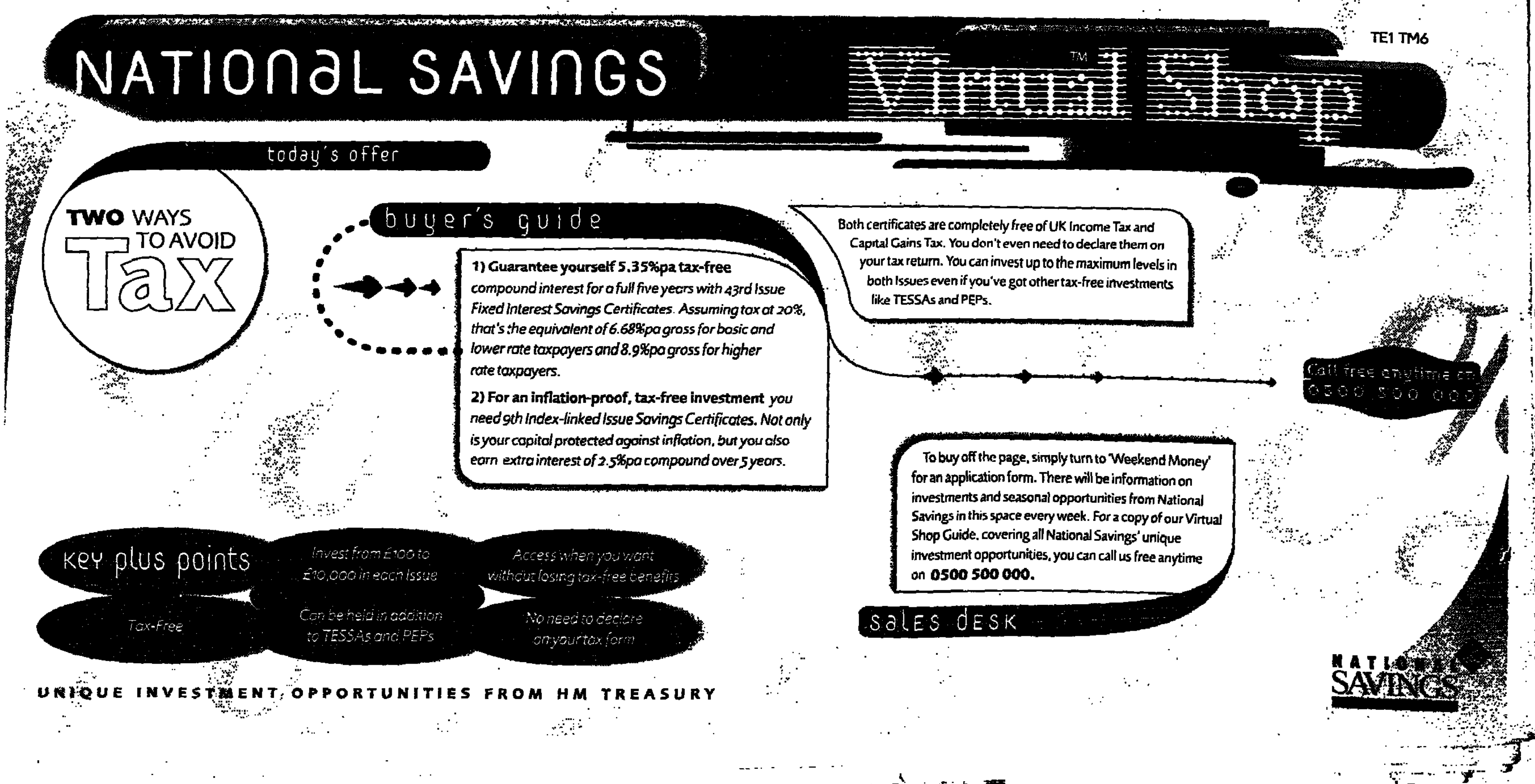
A British girl on holiday in southern India saved a man from drowning after he broke his neck diving into the sea. Jessica Richards, 10, from Shrewsbury, held Stewart Atwell's head above water before help arrived. Mr Atwell, a Bath University student, is in a stable condition.

Brothers detained

David and Paul Moon, brothers aged 20 and 16 from Tunbridge Wells, Kent, were ordered yesterday to be detained in a young offenders' institution for eight and six years respectively for causing the death of a Emily Simms, 16, by running her over in a van after a party in Bromley.

Dunblane case

A pub manager charged with stealing £1,500 collected for the Dunblane fund and £3,500 from his licensee has appeared in court. Patrick Southgate, 45, formerly of the Hope and Anchor in Poplar, east London, but now of no fixed address, was granted bail until May 3.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Judge blames the referee for young rugby player's paralysing injury

By Adrian Lee,
John Goodbody
and David Hands

A RUGBY referee was yesterday said by a judge to have failed in his duty to a 17-year-old player who broke his neck when a scrummage collapsed. Ben Smoldon, now 21, had sued the official, Michael Nolan, for £1 million.

Mr Smoldon was a promising player aiming for a place in his county under-19 squad when he was paralysed from the shoulders down during a game between Sutton Coldfield and Burton-on-Trent Colts in October 1991. His solicitor, Terry Lee, said his client was "shocked with joy" by the result. The amount of damages will be set later.

Mr Smoldon had also sued an opposing forward who was accused of bringing down the scrum in which he was injured. Thomas Whitworth, now 22, was cleared of negligence.

Mr Justice Curtis said in the High Court the referee failed in his duty to the player and fell "below the level of reasonable competence". But "no responsible player and no responsible referee had anything to fear" from his ruling.

However, Edward Grayson, a barrister and author of *Sport and the Law*, said that the consequences of the judgment were "illimitable". It could open the floodgates for more legal actions.

"Refereeing a physical contact sport becomes a risky activity. It means that referees have got to observe the laws of the game meticulously and keep strict control, because otherwise they could be challenged in court."

The referee was backed by the Rugby Football Union, which is trying to recruit new referees. Steve Griffiths of the RFU said: "We are concerned about the consequences of the judgment, both for the playing and refereeing of the game."

Mr Smoldon, who the accident left with only slight movement in his arms, will use the damages he receives to adapt his home in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, to give him more independence.

Nolan: failed to exercise reasonable care and skill

He said he would now concentrate on rebuilding his life. He is studying leisure management in Birmingham and sits his finals in June. "Unfortunately because of the case my studies have taken a back seat but I am going to make the most out of my life." He is considering a career in accountancy or rugby administration. Despite his injury, he said: "I still love the game and enjoy watching it." He coaches Sutton Coldfield Colts, the team he was representing when he was hurt.

He added: "I do not want to discourage any player from playing rugby. I hope this case is one step towards making the game safer. I will continue to support the game for the rest of my life."

In his judgment Mr Justice Curtis said the referee failed to exercise "reasonable care and skill" to prevent the scrummages collapsing or to instruct the players. There had been an abnormally high number of failed scrums — at least 20 — but Mr Nolan, 54, a member of the Staffordshire Society of Referees, paid a lack of attention. Although Mr Smoldon accepted a degree of risk by playing rugby, he deserved protection from the referee.

The judge said the injury, one of several in the game, was forseeable. He said the dangers of neck injuries, to young players in particular, were well known to referees. Where there was a known risk. "I see nothing objectionable in the law seeking to prevent and protect rugby players from unnecessary and potentially highly dangerous, *if not lethal*, aspects of the game by the imposition of a duty of care."

He emphasised that because the rules were different for juniors, nothing he said applied to senior or international rugby matches.

After the case Mr Nolan, of Tamworth, Staffordshire, who was covered by insurance, declined to comment.

Mr Grayson, president of the British Association for Sport and the Law, said that in the light of the judgment referees, umpires, sporting organisations and schools would have to make certain they were fully insured. "It is an inevitably significant judgment because the referee's responsibility to the laws of the game must always be subject to the overriding principle that the law of the land doesn't stop at the touchline."

A spokesman for Rugby League said: "This decision will have ramifications for all sport in the UK, however modest and humble. We are talking about the local squash club as well."

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said the judgment would be viewed "with the deepest concern by everyone who undertakes to referee junior rugby". Much of the refereeing in schools was done "by whoever volunteers to pick up a whistle".

Rugby Union news, page 45

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Ben Smoldon after his victory yesterday: "I'm going to make the most of my life"

Rapist escaped from open jail to attack again

By Joanna Bale

A JUDGE criticised the Prison Service yesterday for moving a rapist to an open jail from which he escaped to attack again.

Judge John Curran said a decision to send Stephen Mills to Leyhill open prison in Gloucestershire from Bristol jail, four years into a 12-year sentence for rape, was a matter of disquiet. Mills escaped and sexually assaulted a 37-year-old woman after tying her up, punching her in the face and threatening to kill her.

At Cardiff Crown Court yesterday, the judge remanded Mills, 29, for psychiatric reports and told him he was considering imprisoning him for life. The judge said: "It is a matter of disquiet that a man convicted of crimes of such gravity should be in an open prison with the consequences which followed. Mills is a real and continuing danger to women and I am considering passing an indeterminate sentence."

While on the run for 15 months from Leyhill, Mills used a false passport to travel around Italy, France and the United States. He returned to Britain and met a divorcée at a nightclub in Wales. They danced together for most of the evening. When he went back to her home Mills indecently assaulted her and threatened to kill her.

After he was convicted yesterday of the attack, the woman joined the judge and police in condemning the decision to send Mills to the open prison. She said: "It was horrifying to think that I met a rapist on the run at a dance. He should never be free to attack women again. I thought my life was over."

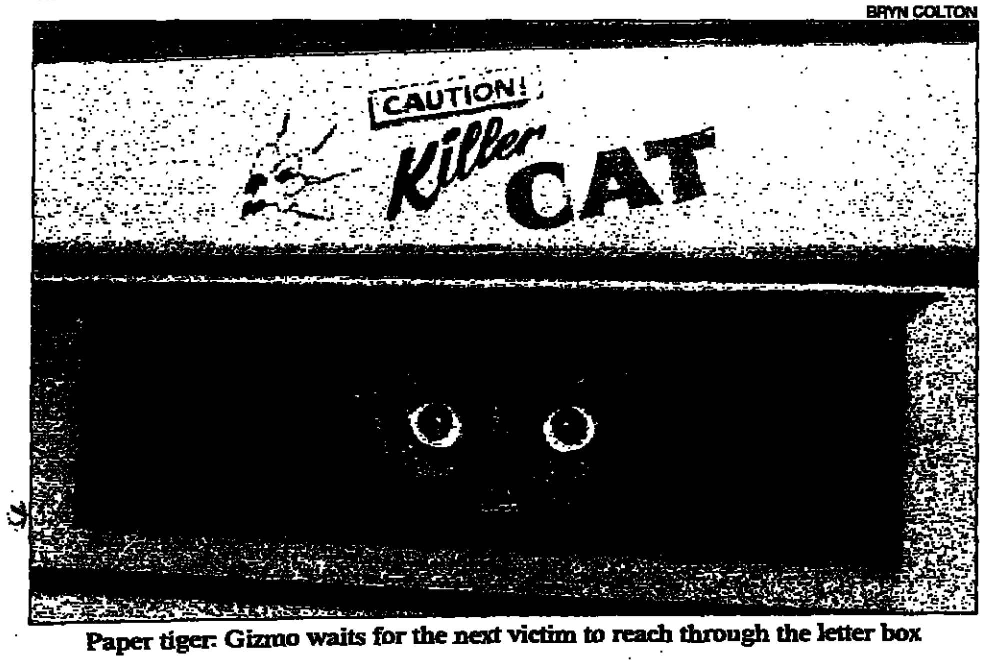
Detective Inspector Bill Ware said: "This woman was lucky to get out of her ordeal alive. This man is very dangerous and should never be allowed near women again. It's crazy for a man like that to be sent to an open prison where he can just walk out."

The court was told that Mills had earlier served a 21-month sentence passed at Taunton Crown Court after attacking a 21-year-old woman in her flat at Yeovil while armed with a sheath knife. He was jailed for 12 years by Truro Crown Court in Cornwall for rape and a serious sexual assault after breaking into a house in Bude three days before Christmas 1988.

Meirion Davies, for the prosecution, told the judge: "The prison authorities say the system has now been changed and it is now unlikely that a man like this would end up in an open prison."

The Home Office said: "There have been lots of changes in risk assessment and things are far more stringent now. It is now unlikely that someone would be sent to an open prison so soon into their sentence."

BRYN COLTON



Paper tiger: Gizmo waits for the next victim to reach through the letter box

Cat with a taste for blood puts postmen in a flap

By A Staff Reporter

POSTMEN and paperboys in a quiet market town are living in fear — of a black cat called Gizmo that has savaged the fingers of six postmen pushing letters through the front door in the past year.

Two paperboys, two parcel courier men and several locals delivering junk mail and leaflets have also been scratched and cut by Gizmo's razor-sharp teeth and claws.

Royal Mail chiefs have now threatened to stop delivering letters to Gizmo's owners, Mick and Daphne Smith-Howell, unless they tame their two-year-old pet. The stern warning was prompted by Gizmo's latest attack on a relief postman who was unaware of the danger lurking behind the front door in Beccles, Suffolk.

The victim, who was on Gizmo's round for the first time, was left with scratched and bleeding fingers. Mr Smith-Howell, 42, a builder, and his wife believe Gizmo is particularly vicious when they are out of their three-bedroom, end-terrace house.

Gizmo, named after a friendly creature in the film *Gremlins*, is no longer allowed out of the house in case it attacks a child. Mr Smith-Howell said: "She usually sits on the bottom step of the stairs and as soon as she sees anyone approaching the door she's ready to pounce. She moves swiftly and silently so people do not realise she is there until she has grabbed their fingers.

Gizmo: stern warning

"Unfortunately she is very territorial and likes to guard the house. She hangs on to the window seal under the letterbox and tries to pull the letters through, but I don't think she means to hurt anyone."

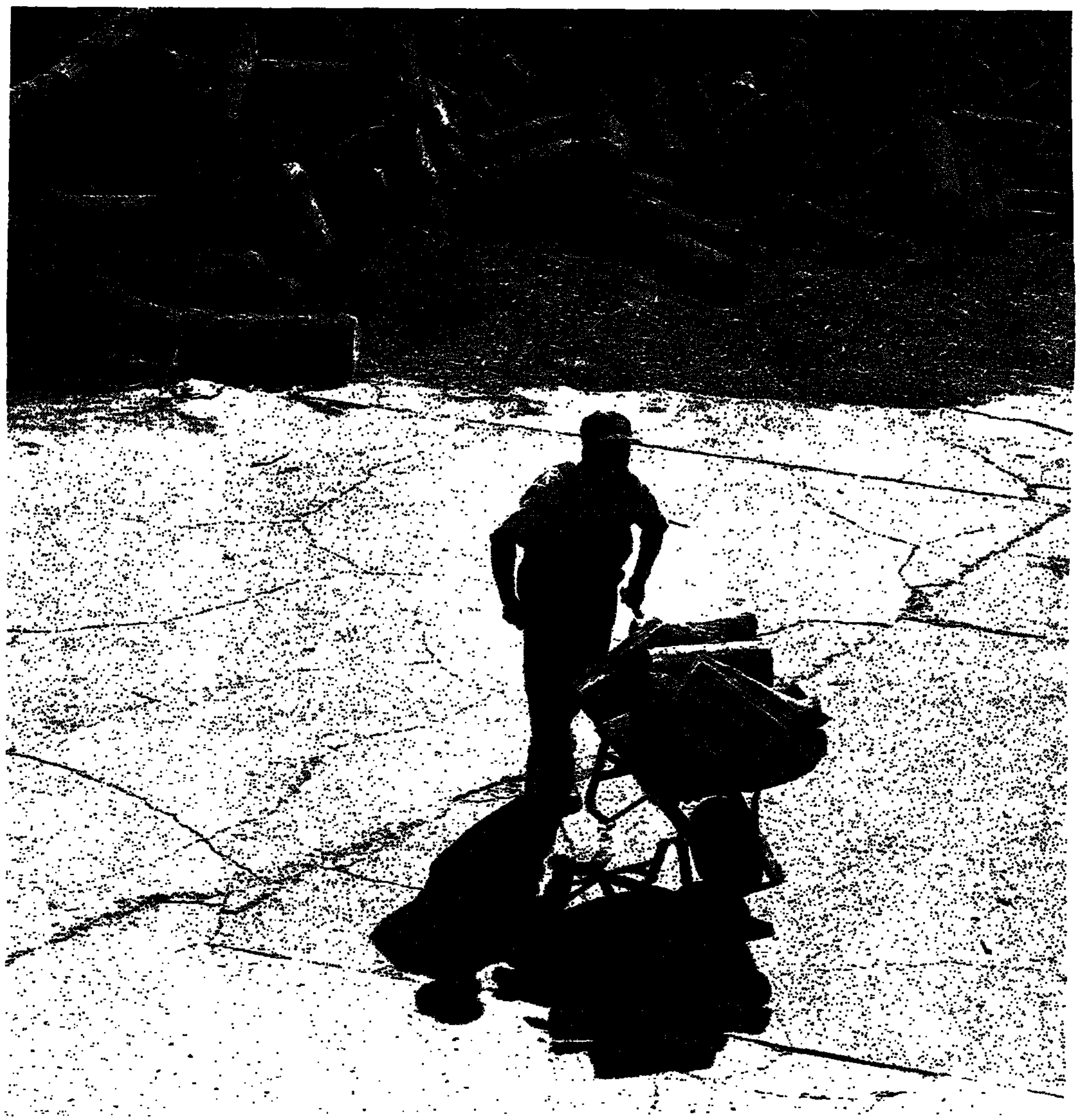
After the first two attacks, Mr Smith-Howell put up the sign "Caution! Killer cat" on the front door, but two couriers from the White Arrow Express delivery firm were still scratched on consecutive days when they tried to push parcel delivery notes through the door. Bob Martin, manager of White Arrow's Norwich depot, telephoned to ask if parcels could be left with a neighbour in future. He said: "There is one certain way to sort out this cat and that is strangling it."

Mr Smith-Howell said: "We are still trying to decide what to do, but we do not want to use a letterbox cage in case Gizmo gets her claws caught and hurts herself. It is a shame she keeps attacking postmen because she is really a very nice, loving cat. If people come into our house she goes up and sniffs them and purrs — although she sometimes hisses as well."

Paul Harris, a Royal Mail Anglia spokesman, said: "A number of our postmen have been hurt and we do not consider these attacks a laughing matter. A cage over the letterbox does not seem an unreasonable request and would easily sort out the problem. We can stop delivering to an address if we feel our staff are in danger. Most animal attacks involve dogs, but others have involved cats, geese and even a turkey."

Mr Harris said there were almost 6,000 attacks by animals on Britain's 80,000 postmen and women last year — an increase of a third on the 4,105 reported in 1977.

Training your pet, Weekend, page 9



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Search at the shops for a volunteer to save cancer girl

Charlotte: may die in weeks without bone-marrow donor

By Emma Wilkins and Jeremy Laurance

THE parents of a six-year-old leukaemia victim are launching a new appeal for a bone-marrow donor to save her life. Charlotte Schroder may die within weeks unless a matching volunteer can be found in a series of blood tests being organised at shopping centres and churches next week.

Ellen Schroder, 38, and her husband Tim, 44, of the wealthy banking family, have been tested along with their near relations, but did not match her bone-marrow type. A search through 2.5 million potential donors on registers in America, Australia and Europe also failed. Charlotte has spent her childhood in and out of hospital after becoming ill at the age of 18 months. The last stage of a two-year course of chemotherapy, which starts on Monday, has just a 20 per cent chance of working. If a donor is found, her chances of survival go up to 40-50 per cent.

"Charlotte has rare bone marrow but I believe there must be a donor out there somewhere," said Mrs Schroder, who gave up her job as an investment banker at Kleinwort Benson to care for her daughter, and has been raising funds for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust register.

"Charlotte is fantastic, she never complains about her treatment or her illness. She thinks that feeling a bit sick all the time is just a normal part of life. She was upset when her hair fell out during the first session of chemotherapy but it grew back and she's now very proud of it."

A donor needs to have at least five out of six characteristics which match Charlotte's white blood cells. Her parents, four-year-old brother Ben, and baby sister Anna, 11 months, have just three out of six.

With support from the actor Bob Hoskins, a neighbour and friend in Hampstead, north London, the Schroders are launching the Campaign Charlotte appeal for more British donors to come forward, which will broaden the Nolan register for all sufferers.

From Monday, four sites will be available at shopping centres and churches across London where donors can have a simple blood test. A telephone line has been set up for inquiries from across the country.

There are 260,000 donors on register, which does not receive any direct financial support from the Department of Health. Of the 6,000 people awaiting bone marrow transfusions in Britain, two thirds are children.

Mrs Schroder said: "It's so difficult to think of life without her. Christmas and birthdays are the worst because you can't help thinking she may not be around for another one."

Mrs Schroder and her husband, a director of the Bond Street antiques dealer Partridge's, try to keep their spirits high for the sake of the whole family: "People are by nature optimists and I can't let myself imagine that she isn't going to make it.

"I have a healthy respect now for the cancer. It's a monster. I just feel there has to be something that I can do to get her through it and this appeal is one way to help her."

A sample of blood taken from baby Anna's umbilical cord (a possible bone-marrow substitute) is being stored at a blood bank. Although it is only a 3/6 match, doctors may be forced to go ahead and perform the transplant in the hope that the cord blood's immaturty will minimise rejection problems. It is, however, a risky strategy.

☐ The walk-in clinics open next week are: Brent Cross Centre, Monday to Friday 12-8, Saturday 9-6, Sunday 11-5; Whiteleys Centre, Bayswater, Thursday to Sunday 12-4; St Botolph's Church, Bishopsgate, Monday to Friday 12-3; St James Church, Piccadilly, Monday to Friday 12-3. Outside London, call 0800 717717 to find out how to be tested.

Mechanical heart man looks forward to tango

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

THE race to develop a mechanical heart that will end the need for human transplants passed a milestone yesterday. The latest recipient of the device pedalled an exercise bicycle and said he was looking forward to dancing the tango.

Ralph Lawrence, a retired finance manager aged 65, who had his electrically driven heart implanted in his abdomen a month ago, said he felt marvellous. "The whole idea of having this operation was so that I could get back to dancing. I couldn't envisage doing the tango or the rumba in a wheelchair."

Mr Lawrence is the latest patient to be fitted with a permanent replacement for his natural heart in the search for alternatives to human heart transplants. He is expected to be fit enough to go home next week. There is a worldwide shortage of donor hearts and American scientists have estimated that between 70,000 and 140,000 people worldwide could benefit from artificial hearts.

Surgeons at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, where the operation on Mr Lawrence was performed on March 20, are racing with rival researchers seeking to overcome the organ shortage with xenografts, animal to human transplants. Scientists at Imutran, the Cambridge biotechnology company, are planning the first experiments in humans this year.

Mr Lawrence, a non-smoker from Kenilworth, Warwickshire, is the second patient to receive an artificial heart at the John Radcliffe. The first, Abel Goodman, a London film producer aged 65, died last month. He survived five months with the device but was never well enough to leave hospital.

Mr Lawrence had a heart attack 25 years ago and had a pacemaker fitted last December as his health deteriorated. He had been turned down for a heart transplant because of his age, the poor state of his kidneys and the fact that he is diabetic.

Sitting beside his wife Jean, with whom he celebrated his 42nd wedding anniversary yesterday, he said: "I was determined to go ahead. My health was deteriorating, I was getting breathless and I couldn't sleep. I could only walk a few hundred yards and I'd had it. I wasn't frightened of the operation. I am just fortunate to have been offered this wonderful chance."

Mrs Lawrence, holding her husband's hand, said: "I had to tell the family what the risks were and that we could lose him now." However, she added: "If he's got this far in this short time I can't see why he shouldn't go on improving."

Mr Lawrence, who retired from the Rover car company in 1989, said he had been determined that Mr Goodman's death a few days after he received his own device should not throw him into a "wobble".

"I feel money has got to be found for this type of operation. I am a pioneer. I hope out of this will come the cash to carry on the work and that it will become a common operation like a heart bypass."

Steven Westaby, the consultant cardiac surgeon, paid tribute to Mr Lawrence's courage and said he was expected to go home next week. He said that mechanical hearts offered a better alternative to human transplants than xenografts using animal hearts.

He displayed a mechanical heart he is working on with Dr Robert Jarvik, an American pioneer. It is a pump the size of a thumb, small enough to be implanted inside the heart.

"Here for the first time I think we have an artificial heart suitable for all ages. The most exciting thing for me is that it can be used in children and there is one the size of a pencil that can be used for babies."

SIMON WALKER

Heart patient Ralph Lawrence, Stephen Westaby and Jean Lawrence yesterday

Drinking tea 'lowers stroke risk'

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

DRINKING tea can protect against stroke, a study in The Netherlands has shown. In a 15-year survey of more than 550 men, those who drank the most tea reduced their risk of stroke by two thirds compared with those who drank the least.

The data come from a long-term dietary analysis of a group of men who live in the town of Zutphen. The food they eat and the diseases they suffer have been followed by researchers from the Dutch National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection since 1970.

During that period, there were 42 strokes among 552 men enrolled in the study. An analysis of the first 15 years has been published in *Archives of Internal Medicine* by a team led by Dr Sirving Keli. It shows that the men most likely to have strokes were those with low intakes of flavonoids. These chemicals are found in fruit and vegetables but by far the largest source is tea, which provided 70 per cent.

Earlier studies have shown that flavonoids reduced the risk of heart disease. This is the first to show a protective effect against stroke.

Britain is criticised over Pill scare

By Nick Nuttall

EUROPE's medicines safety body refused yesterday to back Britain's stand on the risk from new contraceptive pills. The British alert has led to an estimated 3,000 abortions after women stopped taking the Pill.

The Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products said there was insufficient evidence to issue new warnings to women over seven brands of Pills. The announcement leaves Britain isolated over its stand on so-called third-generation Pills.

The Department of Health issued a public alert last October, claiming that there was an increased risk of thrombosis among women taking the newer Pills. The announcement caused some women to stop taking the Pill altogether in mid-cycle, leading to unwanted pregnancies. But the European agency said there were too many uncertainties in the three studies used by the Government to justify its alert.

Several reasons could explain why the studies, including one funded by the World Health Organisation, might have found a small increased risk of thrombosis. Doctors, believing the new Pills were safer, might have been less rigorous in assessing the risks. The European agency said it was calling for more research.

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Bachelor farmer is left £10m by widowed aunt

By A Staff Reporter

A RECLUSIVE farmer has been left almost £10 million by the aunt who brought him up. Richard Oatley, 58, said: "I suppose it's a bit like winning the Lottery, but I'll still carry on with the farm — and I might even still play the Lottery once in a while."

Mr Oatley, a bachelor, inherits £9,998,787 from Ida Fussell, the widow of a brewery owner, who died in October, aged 88. She married Percy Fussell after acting as his housekeeper for 21 years and the couple had looked after Mr Oatley since he was seven. He still lives in the same house. All Mr Oatley would say of his parents was that they had died within the past 25 years and that he did not know why he was brought up by the Fussells.

Most of the legacy is in stocks and shares. Mr Oatley, of Rode, Somerset, said: "I've had this farm for 30 years now. I don't feel like a millionaire. If I wake up in the morning and it's fine, I feel good, and if it's not I don't. That will never change. I couldn't walk away and leave the animals. They need to be cared for and looked after — there's no one else to do it.

Ida Fussell: *married* founder of brewery

"It's early days, but I expect I will leave all the stocks and shares as I don't really know much about that. Ida died after she failed to recover from a hip-replacement operation. I miss her dearly. I loved her an awful lot."

A villager said: "I've lived here for the last 30 years and I don't think I've spoken more than a dozen words to him in that time. I can't see this changing him. He's a very quiet, unassuming man. He keeps himself to himself and works very hard on his farm."

Mr Oatley employs one part-time worker to help him to fatten calves for sale. He said that the BSE scare had made life hard for him but he believed the situation was improving. His house, in the centre of the village, is a few yards from the derelict brewery. The farm is centred on three buildings on the edge of the village. Mr Oatley said that he would not change his D-registered Ford Sapphire.

The Fussell commercial empire was founded in 1744 as toolmaking and iron-smelting businesses in Frome, Mells and Rode. It later diversified into garden furniture and brewing. Mr Fussell, who died in 1964, set up the brewery in Rode with his brothers Henry and Reginald, shortly before the First World War. Mr Oatley said: "I went to live with my aunt and uncle when I was seven and after I left school I did an apprenticeship in farming."

The brewery was recently sold to Bass. Relatives of Henry Fussell have received little of the business's profits. But his daughter, Barbara Wheeler, said the situation had been accepted for many years by her side of the family. "It's just one of those things. Although Ida's name was Fussell she only had maternal connections with the family and we saw her rarely. She married my uncle after 21 years of being his housekeeper and looked after him well when he was ill."

JAMES VELLACOTT

Richard Oatley will go on running his farm. "I don't feel like a millionaire"

Nurses ask court to stop rapist's return to wards

By Michael Horsnell

A LEGAL challenge has been mounted by the Royal College of Nursing to stop a convicted rapist from returning to the wards as a mental health nurse.

Yuen How Choy, who was convicted of raping a former patient in 1983 when he posed as a community psychiatric nurse to gain entry to her home, was restored last month to the professional register by the United Kingdom Central Council, the regulatory body for nurses.

Mr Choy, 50, a father of two, was given two years' imprisonment suspended for 12 months and struck off the register in 1986. In 1972 he received two years' probation for administering a sedative to a patient in order to have sex with her.

The Royal College of Nursing, which says it has been inundated with complaints from nurses, is to seek a judicial review of the decision by the UKCC to reinstate him. The college said: "We believe that it is against the public interest for this nurse to be restored to the register because it is absolutely vital that patients can have complete confidence in the nursing profession. In this case it is very clear that the nurse totally abused his position and betrayed his trust."

Mr Choy, who was a staff nurse for Brighton Health Authority when he raped a former in-patient at a psychiatric hospital where he had previously worked, has been employed as a care assistant on an occasional shift basis since last October at the Forest Lodge nursing home near Uckfield, East Sussex. He did not need to be on the nursing register for that post, but his subsequent reinstatement means he can now apply for work as a qualified nurse.

Mr Choy's successful application for reinstatement, in March, came nine months after a previous application was rejected.

Carol Dilley, nursing director at Forest Lodge, said: "This nurse has been on the panel of care assistants for the past five months and, when working with us, he has carried out his work with care and professionalism."

East Sussex Health Authority, which inspects and registers Forest Lodge, a home for elderly and mentally ill patients, knew of Mr Chow's record and employment, and established that there was no bar to his employment as a care assistant.

The college said: "This home has made a judgment that this man was trustworthy. We disagree." It expects the case, applying for a judicial review, to go before a High Court judge by the end of the month.

Biologist cleared of trying to kill her former lover

From John Campbell in Christchurch

A WOMAN accused of poisoning her former lover, the world-renowned British botanist Professor David Lloyd, has been cleared by a jury in New Zealand of attempted murder.

Professor Lloyd was admitted to hospital with a mystery illness in December 1992. Since then the "Poison professor case" has held New Zealand in thrall. Yesterday it came to a sensational end in Christchurch as, for the first time in New Zealand history, a television network was allowed to broadcast live the announcement of a not guilty verdict.

Victoria Calder, 46, a biologist, was charged with attempted murder and poisoning. The first trial ended in a hung jury. The second trial lasted seven weeks. Throughout both trials the Crown's case against Miss Calder was based on the concept of a scorned woman wreaking revenge.

When Professor Lloyd left her for a younger woman after a seven-year relationship, Miss Calder embarked on a campaign of retribution. She cut up his clothes, stuck an abusive banner to his car and spread dog excrement over his doorstep.

Then Professor Lloyd suddenly became so ill that doctors feared that he would die. The Crown claimed he had been poisoned by Miss Calder with acrylamide monomer which she obtained from work. Her lawyer, Judith Ablett-Kerr, insisted that Professor Lloyd had been the victim of a post-viral infection.

The Crown case faltered because having based its case on the claim that Miss Calder used acrylamide, it was unable to prove that the professor had suffered acrylamide poisoning.

Professor Lloyd is now blind and paralysed. He also suffers recurring bouts of pneumonia. Since his illness he has married the Canadian scientist for whom he left Miss Calder.

Victoria Calder was tried twice for trying to poison Professor Lloyd, who is now blind and paralysed

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Now and then, the Queen

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Quiet 70th birthday for Queen of celebrations

Now and then: the Queen earlier this month and, below, on Coronation Day

By Alan Hamilton

THE QUEEN will celebrate her 70th birthday tomorrow with her immediate family and close friends. The Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York are conspicuously absent from the guest list.

It has been kept deliberately low-key at her own request. The century's longest-reigning monarch believes there have been enough celebrations in the recent past, and that there is too much unfinished business in the immediate future.

The day begins with a family visit to morning service at Sandringham, and ends with an intimate dinner at Windsor Castle to be attended by immediate relatives including Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and Princess Margaret. The Duke of York will be away on a naval exercise, and the workaholic Princess Royal will be at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards and dinner in London.

This birthday contrasts with her 60th, which was marked by a musical gala at the Royal Opera House, 6,000 schoolchildren singing outside Buckingham Palace, and a summer ball at Windsor for 700 guests.

There may be other and better times to come when the Queen will feel more inclined to let the nation share in celebrating the milestones of her life and reign. There is no official stamp from the Royal Mail, although there have been commemorative issues from the Falkland Islands, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, the British Antarctic Territory, and Australia.

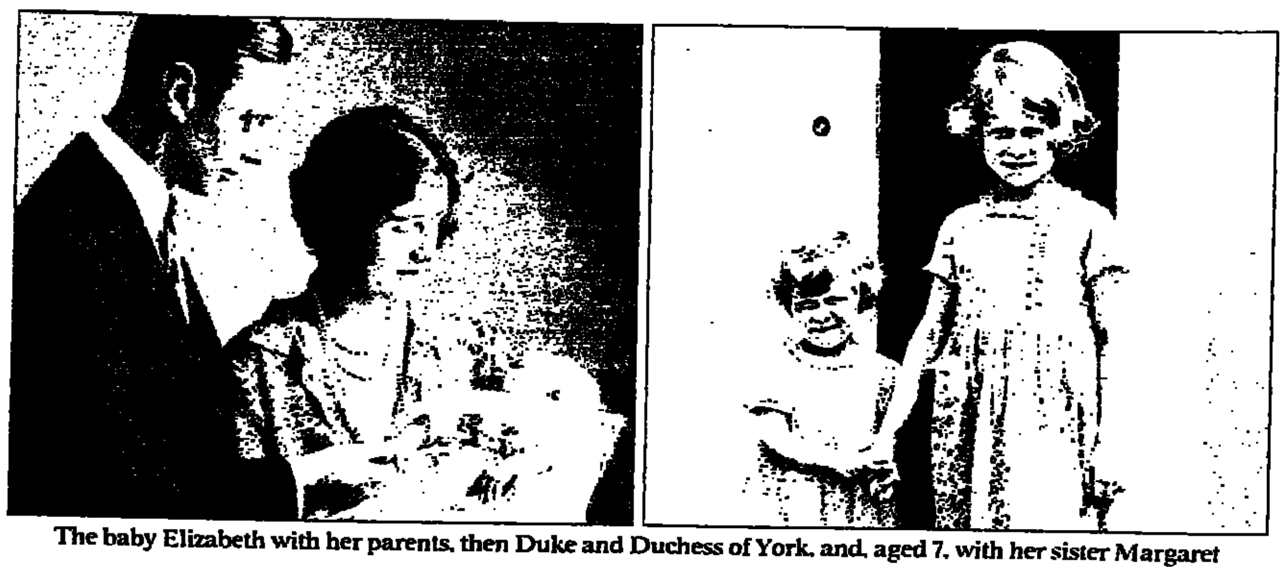
As always on the sovereign's birthday, there will be a 62-gun salute at the Tower of London and another of 41 guns in Hyde Park. Because the birthday falls this year on a Sunday, the guns are delayed until Monday.

The Queen believes that there has been a surfeit of celebrations recently, beginning with the 40th anniversary of her accession in 1992, proceeding through the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings in 1994, and culminating in VE and VJ-Day commemorations last year, in which the Queen played a central part, drawing hundreds of thousands of onlookers to watch her Buckingham Palace balcony appearance flanked by her mother and sister. She also feels that the time is not right to invite public adulation.

This week's granting of a decree nisi to the Duke of York may have saddened the Queen, but it will also have brought her a considerable degree of relief that one of her sons' failed marriages has been brought to a decent and tidy conclusion. The other remains unresolved. She feels strongly that it continues to erode the public's esteem of the monarchy. When it is concluded, she may feel more like celebrating.

There will be no shortage of opportunity. Next year sees her golden wedding anniversary; the year 2000 will ignite countless millennium parties; and 2002 will mark the golden jubilee of her reign. The last time Britain enjoyed such a jubilee was in 1887, when the bunting came out for Victoria.

The Queen is not without reasons for celebrating her 70th birthday. She is only the sixth reigning monarch since the Norman Conquest to reach such an age, along with George II, George III, William IV, Victoria and George V. She is already the sixth longest reigning monarch since 1066, beaten by Henry III (56 years), Edward III (50), George III (59), Victoria (63) and her namesake Elizabeth I, whose 44 years she now equals.



The baby Elizabeth with her parents, then Duke and Duchess of York, and, aged 7, with her sister Margaret

On the day of her engagement to Prince Philip of Greece in 1947, and training for war transport duties

Leading article, page 21

MILESTONES ALONG THE ROAD TO BECOMING HEAD OF 'OUR GREAT IMPERIAL FAMILY'

THE Queen was born at 2.40am on April 21, 1926, at 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair, home of her mother's parents, the Earl and Countess of Strathmore.

☐ She is the fortieth monarch since William the Conqueror.

☐ She was christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary at the Buckingham Palace chapel on May 29, 1926.

☐ At birth, she stood third in line to the throne after Edward, Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) and her father, the Duke of York, who became George VI.

☐ The family moved into Buckingham Palace on February 15, 1937.

☐ She spent most of the war years at Windsor Castle and made her first radio broadcast on October 13, 1940, at the age of 14, on *Children's Hour*.

☐ At the age of 18, in February 1945, she joined the Auxiliary Transport Service as Second Subaltern Elizabeth Windsor, qualifying later as a driver.

☐ In 1939, she met her third cousin, Prince Philip of Greece, and by 1944, when she was still only 18, it was clear she was in love with him.

☐ On her 21st birthday she said in a radio broadcast from Cape Town: "My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

☐ She and Prince Philip were engaged on July 10, 1947, and married on November 20.

☐ Their first child, Charles, was born in 1948, followed by Anne in 1950, Andrew in 1960 and Edward in 1964.

☐ Early in the morning of February 6, 1952, the King died.

☐ Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen on February 8 and was crowned at Westminster Abbey on June 2, 1953.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

DADDY'S BOY, JFK

Joe Kennedy was one of the ogres of 20th century America, yet his crowning achievement was to turn a son he despised into a national icon who is remembered whenever the US elects a president

Exclusive extracts from a new biography by Ron Kessler, the renowned investigative journalist — News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Election fears force ministers to drop road sell-off scheme

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

MINISTERS have scrapped plans to privatise the entire main road network after pressure from from Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman.

The plans were to be included in the Government's long-awaited transport policy document, which will be published by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, later this month or in early May. But the idea of charging drivers for using the roads was seen as politically unacceptable so near to an election.

"Although the charges would release new funds for investment in roads they could too easily be presented as a tax on drivers," a government source said.

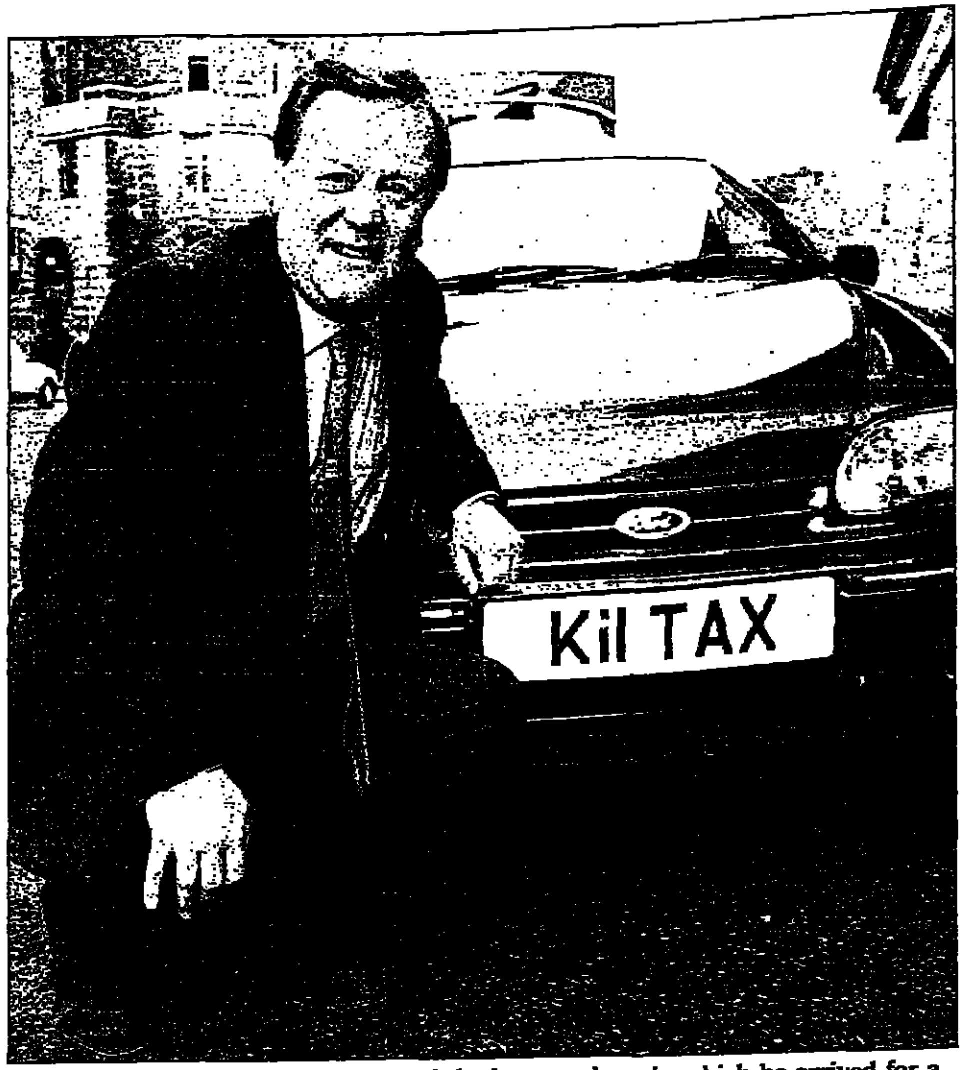
The original draft of the document proposed creating regional road corporations to manage and maintain motorways and trunk roads in their areas on a commercial basis. Motorists would have been charged through additional fuel duties, in-car charging devices or the sale of windscreen discs. Part of the money would have been used to improve and expanding the network with the rest going to the Treasury. The corporations would initially have been owned by the Government, with a long-term aim of selling them to private operators.

The plans represented the Government's "big idea" for tackling Britain's growing transport problems after the great debate initiated by Dr Mawhinney in 1994 when he was Transport Secretary. Sir George is an enthusiastic supporter of making motorists pay more towards the huge costs to society of accidents, congestion and pollution. However, asking drivers, particularly middle-class Tory voters, to pay again for the roads they fund through income taxes and petrol duties is regarded as political suicide at this stage of the electoral cycle.

Dropping the plans has stripped the policy document of most of its original content. The published version will instead concentrate mainly on the past achievements of the Government's transport policy, notably privatisation of most of the rail industry. The status of the document, which may come in the form of a Green Paper, has been downgraded and will probably be slipped out as a written parliamentary answer with little fanfare.

The Department of Transport is now unlikely to announce any big new policy initiatives until after the election and officials believe that they will do no more than "tread water" for the next 12 months.

The Government's roads programme has almost halted because of Treasury-imposed cuts over the past two years. Only a handful of major new roads, including the Newbury bypass, will be started this financial year.



Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and the borrowed car in which he arrived for a speaking engagement in Manchester yesterday. He seemed unaware that the number plate, transformed into a tax-cutting slogan by means of a well-placed bolt, was illegal. Misrepresenting the number is punishable by a fine of up to £1,000

Castrate child molesters, says MP

By Our Political Staff

A TORY MP called for the castration of paedophiles yesterday as a crackdown on the organisers of "sex tourism" trips to the Far East was passed by the Commons.

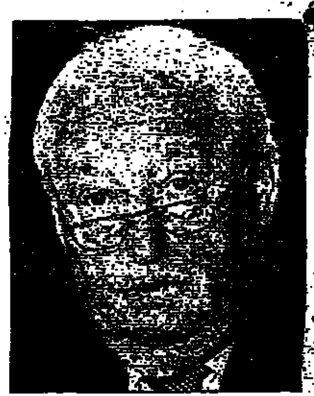
A Bill aimed at curbing holiday tours for paedophiles to countries such as Thailand was given a third reading and now goes to the Lords. It imposes tough sentences for "inciting" people to have sex with children abroad.

But David Evans, Tory MP for Welwyn Hatfield, said that laws must be tightened even further to make the punishment fit the crime. "Why not castrate them straight away and then the taxpayer would not have to foot the bill? There would be more room in prisons for other offenders."

Many campaigners against "sex tourism" want offenders to be prosecuted in the British courts for crimes committed abroad. David Maclean, the Home Office Minister, told MPs that the Government was looking at the issue but had serious doubts about the effectiveness of such action.

"I don't want the House to be under the impression that all we've got to do is make a couple of tweaks to the law here or there. Britain can then have extra-territorial jurisdiction and there will be a queue of perverts being prosecuted in the British courts who will all be found guilty and we will stamp out the problem. It will not work like that, though we all wish to God it would."

John Marshall, Tory MP for Hendon South, who introduced the Bill, said it would not stop child molesters. But he added: "What we can do is ensure that those individuals in this country who were seeking to make a business out of encouraging other people to molest children will find it much more difficult to do that."



Evans: punishment should fit the crime

Labour demands faster justice

By Stewart Tendler

EVENING and weekend court sittings could be used to cut the number of prisoners held for long periods on remand, according to a Labour report published today.

Extra sittings could be used to deal with short cases or remands where the courts are waiting for reports before sentencing. Judges could also speed the process by greater scrutiny of requests for adjournments and by disallowing lawyers' costs if the court's time has been wasted. Labour says that the changes would not require legislation.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said: "Lengthy delays in dealing with remand prisoners are placing increasing pressure on the prison population and adding to the suffering of both victim and defendant."

The report shows that the number of untried people in prison rose from 600 to 1,500 in the ten years to 1994.

Brown and Cook in overseas aid row

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR'S senior lieutenants, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook, are locked in a battle over whether Labour should commit itself to spending more on overseas aid.

The Labour leader may have to arbitrate if the struggle between his Shadow Chancellor and Shadow Foreign Secretary cannot be resolved at a policy meeting on Monday.

Mr Cook is fighting Mr Brown's determination to stop Labour making any spending commitments that cannot be paid for by pre-announced savings. They will argue their case about the £2.15 billion aid budget at Monday's joint policy committee of the Shadow Cabinet and National Executive Committeee.

Mr Cook is seen by colleagues as fighting to maintain Labour's traditional support for higher spending on overseas aid. But Mr Brown will insist that the party has to make "hard choices" to avoid tax increases.

Since 1979 spending on overseas aid has fallen from 0.51 per cent of gross national product to 0.31. Joan Lestor, overseas aid spokeswoman, said in January: "A Labour government will start to reverse that decline in their first year of office." Mr Brown says that the commitment should be reconsidered.

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Chestnut holds key to crunch factor

By Nick Nuttall

THE peculiar British penchant for overcooking vegetables could soon be stymied by scientists investigating the secrets of an oriental vegetable.

They believe the ingredient that keeps water chestnuts firm and crunchy, even after overcooking, could be bred into other vegetables, protecting them from the worst excesses of the British housewife.

More importantly, it might be possible to engineer vegetables genetically so that they produce the crunchy chestnut factor, even after being processed and tinned, and stop fruit turning soft and mushy during ripening.

The texture of fruits and vegetables is influenced by different types of chemicals and the way they bond or "glue" together cell walls. During cooking or ripening these bonds, called pectic polysaccharides, are broken down and dissolve.

The Chinese water chestnut, which is actually the corm of an aquatic sedge, survives intact even after hours in a pan or being battered by the canning process because of a variety of chemicals called ferulic acids. In grasses, they form powerful bonds between cells which are heat-resistant.

The research has been led by Keith Waldron and a team at the Institute of Food Research in Norwich. Dr Waldron said: "We have now found that aproximately 1 per cent of the cell wall of the Chinese water chestnut consists of ferulic acid, which is exceptionally high." Forty per cent of this is in a form which makes bonds that are adept at surviving heating.

The researchers now plan to screen different varieties of common vegetables to discover which have the highest levels of the crunch chemicals.

Food, Weekend, page 3

Tale of the Belvoir urns highlights rise in art crime

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

TWO Italian 18th-century urns stolen from the Duke of Rutland's home, Belvoir Castle, were returned to him yesterday after Nottinghamshire police recovered them among a hoard of stolen statuary.

The duke is fortunate to have been reunited with his property. Few owners of historic properties have been so lucky: of about 1,000 items stolen during the past five years, only 78 objects were recovered, according to the Council for the Prevention of Art Theft.

A survey by the council found that since 1990 176 burglaries and attempted break-ins were reported by 150 privately owned stately homes that are open to the public. Belvoir Castle, near Grantham, with its paintings by Holbein, Gainsborough and Van Dyck, is among those open to the public. Sir Thomas Ingilby, of Ripley Castle in North Yorkshire, who co-founded the council, said that no more than 13 houses reported any arrests.

Sir Thomas explained that the survey is yet to be topped up with figures from the National Trust and public galleries. "The number of incidents is quite frightening." Such is the interest in stately houses and their contents that *Country Life* has become one of the magazines most favoured by criminals, according to police sources. The professionals know exactly what they are looking for; a number are known to have become experts through evening art classes and Open University courses.

The Belvoir Castle urns were found in the outbuilding of a property near Mansfield. Two men are being interviewed by the police. Officers joined the duke yesterday to watch the lead urns being returned to their plinths, which have been rebuilt and fitted with security devices. The duke said: "The police have done a marvellous job in tracking them down."

The Council for the Prevention of Art Theft is calling for stronger legal protection and intends to campaign for stiffer penalties for anyone arrested in possession of items that are more than 100 years old and owned by a national gallery or stately home. At the moment, the law treats art theft like any domestic theft of a video or television. Yet, if a Canaletto was stolen, Sir Thomas said, the nation lost part of its heritage.

The council is also pressing for a "code of due diligence" to ensure that every conceivable step has been taken so that fine art and antiques that have been reported stolen are not knowingly purchased.

"The vast majority — 93 per cent of the items stolen — are not being recovered by the owners, yet they must be out there somewhere in the market," Sir Thomas said. "Reports of items being identified and returned by dealers are so few as to be exceptional. If anything proves a need for an effective 'code of due diligence' to be introduced in a practicable manner, these shameful figures do."

Burglars are going to extraordinary lengths to steal what they want. Magnifying glasses and silver hallmark books are being found at break-ins. In a spectacular raid on Houghton Hall in Norfolk, thieves constructed a scaffold tower to get into the first-floor window.

Garden statuary is proving particularly popular: wheelbarrows, trolleys and lorries with hydraulic hoists are used to make off with even the heaviest pieces.

The Duke of Rutland with one of the recovered urns yesterday. Few of his fellow stately home owners have been lucky enough to see their stolen artworks again

Sacked teachers win £24,000 in netball bugging case

Joy Kirby, left, and Wendy Easen yesterday after the tribunal ruled that they had been unfairly sacked

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

TWO teachers were unfairly sacked from an independent school after the owner bugged their conversations in a dispute over netball matches, an industrial tribunal decided yesterday.

Jeff Redmayne, owner of Musgrave Primary School in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was ordered to pay £24,000 compensation to the teachers, whom he recorded using a briefcase with a built-in tape recorder. He later dismissed Joy Kirby and Wendy Easen from the £800-a-term school for gross misconduct, accusing them of plotting against the head teacher.

Mr Redmayne claimed that they waged a campaign to discredit Pamela Wood, the head, by organising a netball club behind her back and by trying to blame her for not providing first aid cover at a match.

The women's solicitors accused him of bugging their confidential conversation with a "KGB-style device" with a microphone fitted into the briefcase lock. He then kept the tape secret for ten months and used it as evidence to sack them.

Speaking after the tribunal in Newcastle upon Tyne, Mrs Easen said: "I am delighted with the result and am relieved it is all over. I was withdrawn from my classroom without saying goodbye to my children. I was told I was not allowed to go back to school except to clear my things away after lessons had finished. It was horrendous."

Mrs Kirby added: "Since I was dismissed from school it has been very difficult trying to live a normal life in the shadow of such accusations. We felt our every move was being watched. We could not do or say anything."

The tribunal chairman ruled: "Mr Redmayne decided the teachers were guilty of gross misconduct because he believed they colluded to fabricate an account of a conversation with Mrs Wood to discredit her.

"He was not able to say what the collusion was about. I feel no reasonable employer would have come to this decision. Even if their accounts had not been accepted and Mrs Wood's had, this could not have amounted to gross misconduct. The teachers in no way contributed to their dismissal."

The tribunal awarded Mrs Easen £11,500 compensation and Mrs Kirby £12,500. After the teachers were sacked two other teachers resigned fearing their jobs were at risk. They are claiming constructive dismissal.

Mr Redmayne said: "The management of Musgrave School is obviously disappointed . . . The decisions to dismiss were not taken lightly and were made after a full and thorough investigation by the school's management committee."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran 'sorry Rushdie is still alive'

Iran's parliamentary Speaker said yesterday that Salman Rushdie had "insulted one billion Muslims and we are sorry he is still alive".

Ali Akbar Nategh-Nuri, an influential politician and leader of the regime's conservative faction, said in Tehran that, despite Western protests, Iran stood firm on the 1989 fatwa by Ayatollah Khomeini condemning Rushdie to death for blasphemy in his book *The Satanic Verses*.

MP in hospital

Seamus Mallon, the SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh, was in a stable condition after fainting during a radio interview. Mr Mallon, 59, was admitted to St Thomas's Hospital, south London, after collapsing on a Radio Ulster programme.

Sex trial delayed

The trial of a leading churchman accused of indecent assault on four women was adjourned until May 13 at Edinburgh Sheriff Court. Professor Donald Macleod, 55, of the Free Church of Scotland, denies five charges.

Robbery charge

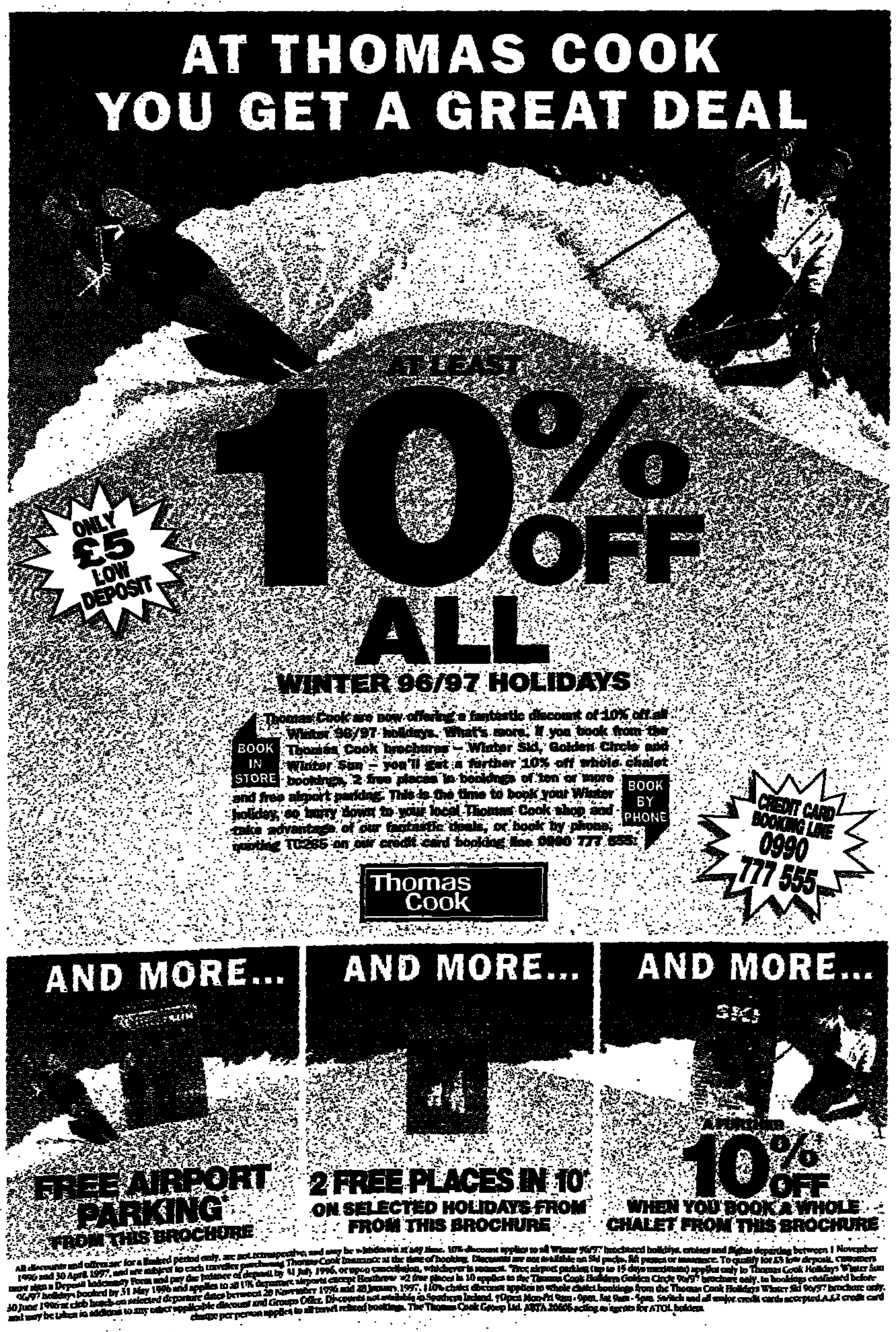
A 34-year-old man is expected to appear in court in Belfast today charged with armed robbery and unlawful imprisonment after the theft of more than £1 million from a Securicor van a week ago. Loyalist paramilitaries have been blamed.

£3m paintings

Two sea pictures measuring more than 4ft by 9ft fetched £3.1 million at Christie's in London, setting a record for Luca Carlevaris, founder of the 18th-century Venetian school of view-painting. The previous best price was £660,000 for a single picture.

Lottery serenade

The tenor José Carreras will serenade Anthea Turner with a Spanish love song tonight when she hosts the National Lottery draw for the last time. Ms Turner, 35, is leaving to join Carlton TV. Her place will be taken by Bob Monkhouse.



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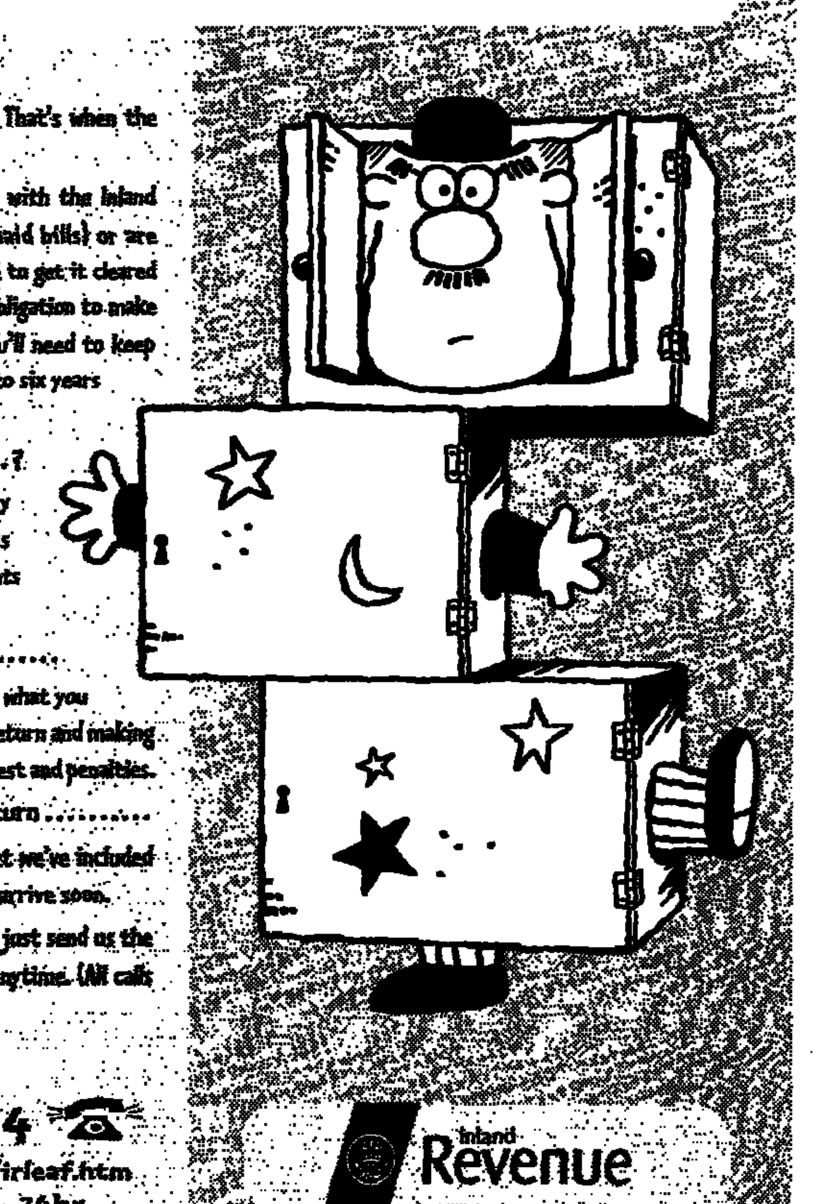

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Unthinkable tragedy that must never become unspeakable

Credo

Rabbi Hugo Gryn

THERE were two wars going on from 1939 to 1945. The one we know as the Second World War was between the Allies and Nazi Germany and its partners in the Axis powers. The other was the Nazi programme against Europe's Jews, and many of its gypsies.

Those of us who survived the genocide were not only unable to comprehend the tragedy, but were also traumatised by it. Although we tried to speak to an unbelieving world about it and the betrayal of every religious and civilising principle, we soon fell silent. There was a great danger that that which was not spoken of would become unspeakable.

There was, of course, a great deal of literature on the subject. But it was the screening of *Holocaust*, the American-made fictional series by Gerald Green, and *Shoah*, the searing 11-hour documentary by Claude Landsman, that helped to break the silence of the survivors. Indeed, what happened was not only that survivors felt it important for them to speak out, but that families, friends and neighbours were also prepared to listen. *Survivors of the Holocaust*, a production being broadcast today, is the latest, and I very much hope not the last, of visual testimonies about the Holocaust.

The programme is a combined production by Turner Original Productions and The Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, which was created by Steven Spielberg after his work on *Schindler's List*. It shows excerpts from the more than 12,000 full-length video recordings of survivors' stories and testimonies. The men and women we meet in this documentary — briefly, but certainly memorably — speak of their individual stories and experiences. They are not "talking heads", but rather people whose outpourings of hearts and souls leave unforgettable images.

There are so many who speak of the guilt of the survivor. It is a feeling I understand very well. How is it, we ask ourselves, that people who were so much better, more talented and learned than us — indeed, more noble — how is it that they perished and we survived? Is there any special point in our survival?

We know in our hearts that it was mainly chance, but we also know that our survival puts a complicated and painful obligation on us. It is to testify about what we experienced and about the loss of so much decency and goodness and laughter, and also about the reality of evil. Perhaps this can give a little meaning, not only to our lives, but also to the lives of those who we knew and lost, and to their deaths.

I hope that this documentary will speak to the hearts and spirits of the new generations and help to immunise them against moral neutrality and the temptation to be a bystander when evil is perpetrated. For me, the line with which I so identify, and which is virtually a definition of this programme, is spoken by Andrew Newcels. He says: "I want to forget and I cannot forget . . ."

Survivors of the Holocaust is on CNN International at 11am and again at 5pm.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn is the president of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain

Ghostbusters to haunt spirits that put chill in Chillingham

By Bill Frost

INVESTIGATORS of the paranormal are to spend four days and four nights at one of Britain's most haunted castles next week in the hope of confronting its long-term, non-paying guests and filming the evidence. Among the spiritual squatters are said to be hooded monks, a grieving wife seeking her dead husband, and a crying child.

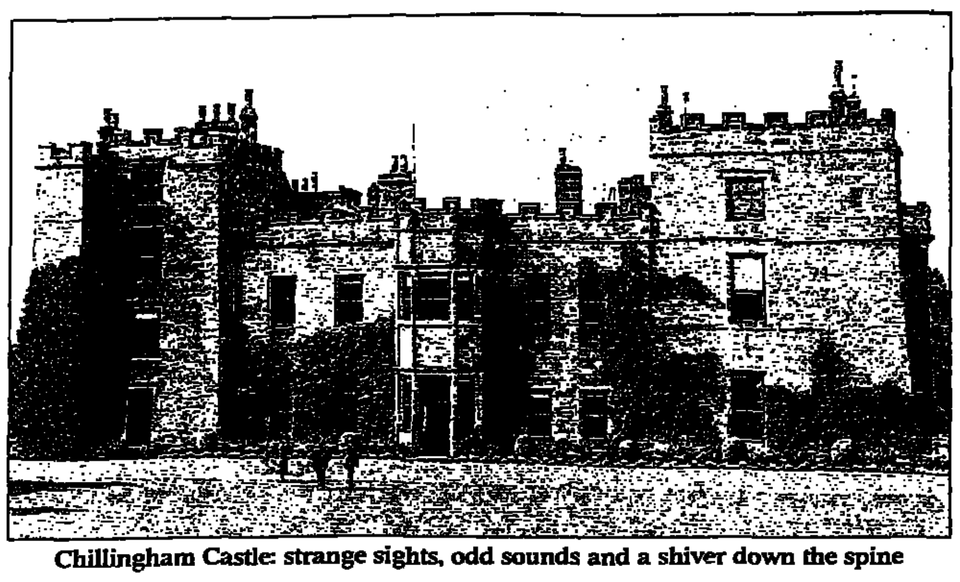
The ghostbusters believe that as many as four generations of unquiet spirits are in residence at Chillingham Castle, near Wooler, Northumberland. The Ghost Research Foundation was called in by Sir Humphry Wakefield after his family and staff reported strange events.

The 12th-century castle, built on the site of a 7th-century monastery, has the perfect pedigree for a haunting. Sir Humphry said: "My wife's family, the Greys, lived here after taking it by storm in 1245 and the word is they slaughtered all the defenders. It is quite likely there are a number of ghosts in the castle who very unhappy about that. People who were captured during battles were brought here for torture and died, later coming back to haunt."

A nun who lives in one of the castle lodges has reported hearing a young girl crying. An exorcism was carried out but the sobbing continued.

Among the regular sightings is the ghost of Lady Mary Grey, emerging from a picture in the hall and climbing the stairs to search in vain for her husband. The family claims a distant connection with Lady Jane Grey, the young woman executed for claiming the throne in 1553.

Sir Humphry, 59, has seen no spirits but has sensed their presence. "I have had strange feelings — a sudden shiver going down my spine. I know there is something there because I keep sensing things which are not normal."



Chillingham Castle: strange sights, odd sounds and a shiver down the spine

Guests who stay at the castle have spoken of inexplicable blue flashes from a fireplace. Records show regular sightings of a "blue boy" at the same spot in the 1900s. Sir Humphry's son Maximillian, 29, also claims a close encounter. "Max was at home one night when he thought he could hear a burglar coming up the stairs," his father said. "He got a gun and waited to confront him. The steps came into his room, went past him and out through the wall. He never saw a thing. Until then he had always been a sceptic."

One guest staying in a particularly haunted wing apparently suffered a breakdown after a brush with what she described as a whirlwind and some form of spectral visitation. "She tried to sue us afterwards, claiming we were responsible for her mental condition," Sir Humphry said.

Jason Carr, of the Ghost Research Foundation, which is putting a six-man team into the castle on Monday, is no stranger to the spirit world, having confronted four in his time. He said: "We have been in regular contact with Sir Humphry for the past two years, and we are quite confident there is something there. We use video cameras and monitoring equipment to see if there is anything strange in the atmosphere. We also have a member of the team who is psychic, so perhaps we can make contact."

Despite their unsettling activities, Sir Humphry has grown quite fond of his guests from beyond the grave, regarding them as good company. The investigation may do no harm to the castle's other role as a tourist haunt: it reopens to paying guests next month.

Bishops call for civil vows to state that marriage is for life

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

ROMAN Catholic bishops called on the Government yesterday to strengthen civil marriage ceremonies by inserting statutory public vows that marriage is for life.

The bishops, who debated the Government's divorce law proposals this week, said: "To strengthen marriage it is not enough to reform divorce."

At present, couples who marry in register offices can if they wish take lifelong vows in public, but this is not a statutory requirement. The bishops want this altered in an attempt to strengthen marriage and want a more intensive programme of marriage preparation for all couples.

While couples who marry in church receive preparation from the clergy, nothing is laid on for those who marry in a civil ceremony. Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, criticised the lack of preparation for marriage, which he said was in stark contrast to the complex process of divorce.

He compared marriage to entering the priesthood, and said he had spent four years preparing for ordination. Parenthood held far greater responsibilities, yet it was something people fell into, he said. He believed that all couples should be offered counselling before marriage and that register office ceremonies should include openly stated lifetime commitments.

The issue is of increasing concern to church leaders of all denominations as increasingly attractive venues are licensed for civil weddings. Cardinal Hume said: "The only thing you have to say is 'Mary, I do take thee to be my wife.' A registrar might make a few statements, but he may omit the fact that marriage is for life."

Cardinal Hume, speaking after the annual post-Easter Low Week meeting of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales, said: "We think we should make the entrance to marriage more difficult and not something that people just drift into. It cannot be beyond the wit of people to find something." Children should be taught at school and by their parents that marriage was for life.

Earlier this year, Cardinal Hume added his voice to the chorus of opposition to the Lord Chancellor's divorce Bill, and insisted that further thought be given to the issue of fault. He said the Bill did not underline the seriousness of breaking marriage vows.

The bishops, who had previously given their general support to the Bill, backed Cardinal Hume yesterday and welcomed the "new emphasis" on reconciliation that is emerging in the Bill. In a joint statement, they said: "We believe that with adequate time for reflection, and provision of professional help, many more marriages might be saved. We would welcome any measures which might be introduced to give couples time to assess the serious consequences of seeking a divorce." They said serious consideration should be given to strengthening the statutory framework within which civil marriages are made.

The bishops, who met in Westminster, said that the formal promises made by a couple at a civil marriage ceremony should "always explicitly refer to the legal definition of marriage, namely that it is the union of one man with one woman, voluntarily entered into for life to the exclusion of all others".

The Office for National Statistics, which incorporates the General Register Office, said: "We have no comment because we have not had any official representation from the bishops."

Cardinal Hume also stood by his view that the waiting time before a divorce proposed in the Bill be extended from 12 months, but did not specify how long it should be.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 15

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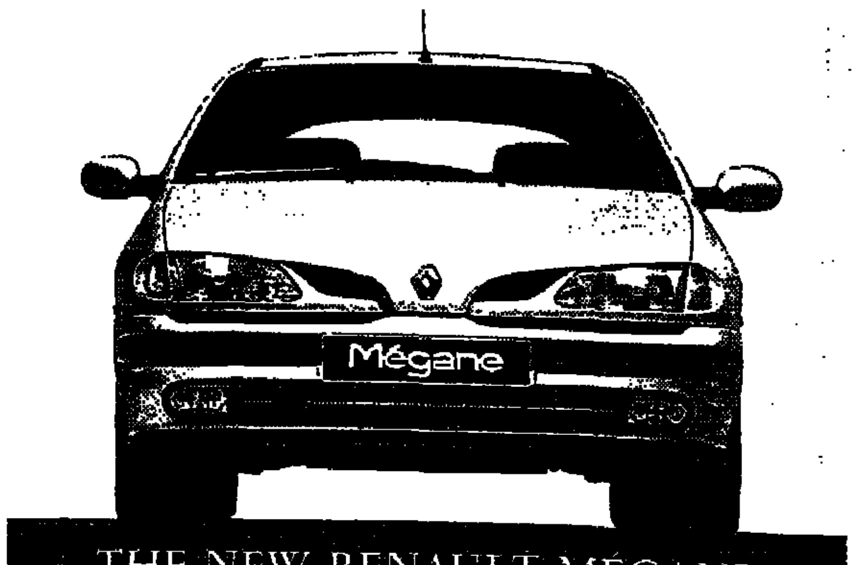

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Race against the clock for Atlanta in Olympics dash

From Ian Brodie in Atlanta

THESE are nail-biting times in Atlanta as it counts down to opening ceremonies for the Olympic Games in three months. The city is hoping to win a world-class reputation as the Big Peach, but snags and discord still litter the track.

Heavy winter rains delayed construction of the stadium. Crews are racing to catch up, but will have their work cut out. The city centre is still a rash of hardhat sites that throb to the clatter of pneumatic drills and bulldozers. Officials have delayed the debut of a festive Olympic Park from next month to June while workers shift into high gear seven days a week. The Games start on July 19.

Anxieties about terrorism have prompted the FBI and 22 other law-enforcement agencies to hold secret exercises this week based on alarming scenarios. They included simulations of an airline hijacking at Atlanta airport and a chemical weapons attack. Activist groups are snapping at the heels of civic supporters with increasing ferocity, with charges that low-income families have been evicted to make way for "the Olympic family".

The risks of taking a stroll in Atlanta, particularly at night, became an issue when Michael Bowers, Georgia's Attorney-General, said it would be "safer to walk the streets of Sarajevo" — a comment that angered city officials.

Atlanta will undergo a pre-Olympics test in crowd control this weekend when 200,000 black college students arrive for an annual spring rite known as Freaknik, a partying and car-cruising bash that causes untold traffic jams.

Atlanta residents who had hoped to amass sky-high profits from renting their well-to-do homes to Olympics spectators are still waiting. One rental agent, Anne Treadwell, has listings for 6,500 houses and flats, many costing $1,000 (£600) a day, but only five have been taken. She said prices must start falling quickly if the idea is ever to catch on.

The quest for Olympics tickets and hotel rooms remains a daunting challenge. British fans who decide to attend at this late stage will be better off buying tour packages before they leave rather than taking their chances in Atlanta, where promises of extra tickets and accommodation are falling short.

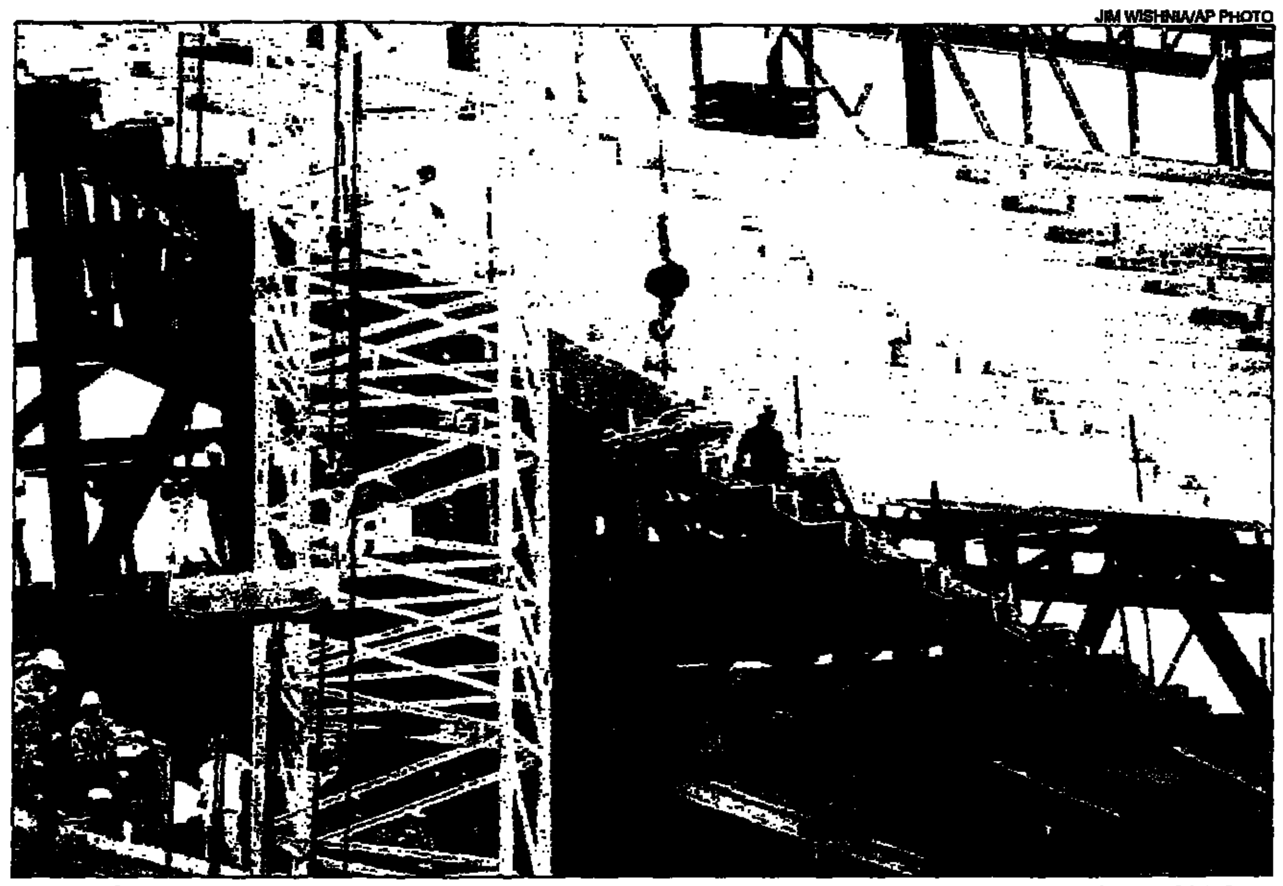
Callers to official hotlines this week were offered hotel rooms no closer than 160 miles from Atlanta. All popular events were sold out, leaving tickets only for early rounds of basketball and gymnastics, or for sports like archery and women's baseball. About 3,000 British fans are expected to make the Olympic trek.

Despite the problems, Atlanta's organisers are confident that all work will be finished on time. "Damn right, we'll be ready," said Bob Brennan, the Games spokesman, wearily fielding questions about Atlanta's ability to finish on time. "Look at what we've already done."

The Olympic stadium with seating for 83,000 will be dedicated a month from now, even as the organising committee and architects sue each other over allegations of negligence after a light tower collapsed and killed a worker.

The Games has already set records: 197 countries will take part, 28 more than in Barcelona. There will be more than 10,000 athletes, up from 9,367 four years ago, and 3,779 will be women, a 40 per cent rise.

Reginald Mitchell, the doyen of Atlanta's British community and owner of "Reggie's British Pub", is confident the city will indeed be peachy. He said: "They'll have everything in place by opening day, but it will probably cost them a fortune in overtime."


JIM WISHNIA/AP PHOTO

One of two workers hurt when a tower collapsed at the Olympic stadium last year is lowered to safety. A third was killed

Rifkind plea for colony's council

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN will make a last-ditch effort today to persuade China to allow Hong Kong's final elected Legislative Council to continue its work after Peking's takeover next year.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, will meet Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, in The Hague today to review the intensifying pace of discussions before the transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty. He is expected to press Mr Qian to lift China's threat to abolish the council. Mr Rifkind will point to the harm such a move would cause. Discussions will also centre on the role of the Hong Kong Civil Service, after warnings by Peking that civil servants will be expected to show loyalty.

Lu Ping, the head of China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, slipped out of the colony by car to avoid demonstrators yesterday, after talks with officials.

Leading article, page 21

Gun owners gather in Dallas to target Clinton campaign

From Tom Rhodes in Dallas

THE city where John Kennedy was assassinated has never disguised its fondness for powerful guns or strong women. Yesterday the two forces were combined in a political broadside against President Clinton.

More than 25,000 gun enthusiasts arrived in Dallas for the annual convention of the 125-year-old National Rifle Association, one of the most powerful political lobby groups in America, which could affect the presidential election.

At its helm are two women who have firmly established that the NRA is no longer a male bastion: Marion Hammer, a 57-year-old chain-smoking grandmother who became its first female chairman earlier this year, and Tanya Metaksa, her pistol-packing colleague.

The two present a strident defence of the Second Amendment right to bear arms and have promised their organisation will help to defeat Mr Clinton in November.

But membership tumbled last year by 400,000 and, according to figures to be released this weekend, NRA cash and investments have declined by more than half to $42.8 million (£27.4 million). With a sense of timing that even stalwarts recognise as embarrassing, the association opened its conference yesterday on the anniversaries of the Oklahoma City bombing and the FBI siege at Waco, events which have cast a shadow over a movement perceived by many Americans to support radical militia groups. Mrs Hammer said the date had been set a year before the Waco débâcle in which 80 members of the Branch Davidian cult died.

Dave Edmondson, a former member of the board, accused the leadership of "bankrupting" the NRA and leading it away from its traditional roots as a group to support the rights of sportsmen in the United States.

But if the organisation has alienated a majority of America's gun owners, the more radical following still exerts plenty of political clout.

Mr Clinton has said he will veto any attempt to repeal a ban on assault weapons and the Senate is unlikely to pass such a measure. But a vote in the House last month passed with ease. It was a clear signal that House Republicans will remain loyal to the organisation, which proved essential to their election in 1994.

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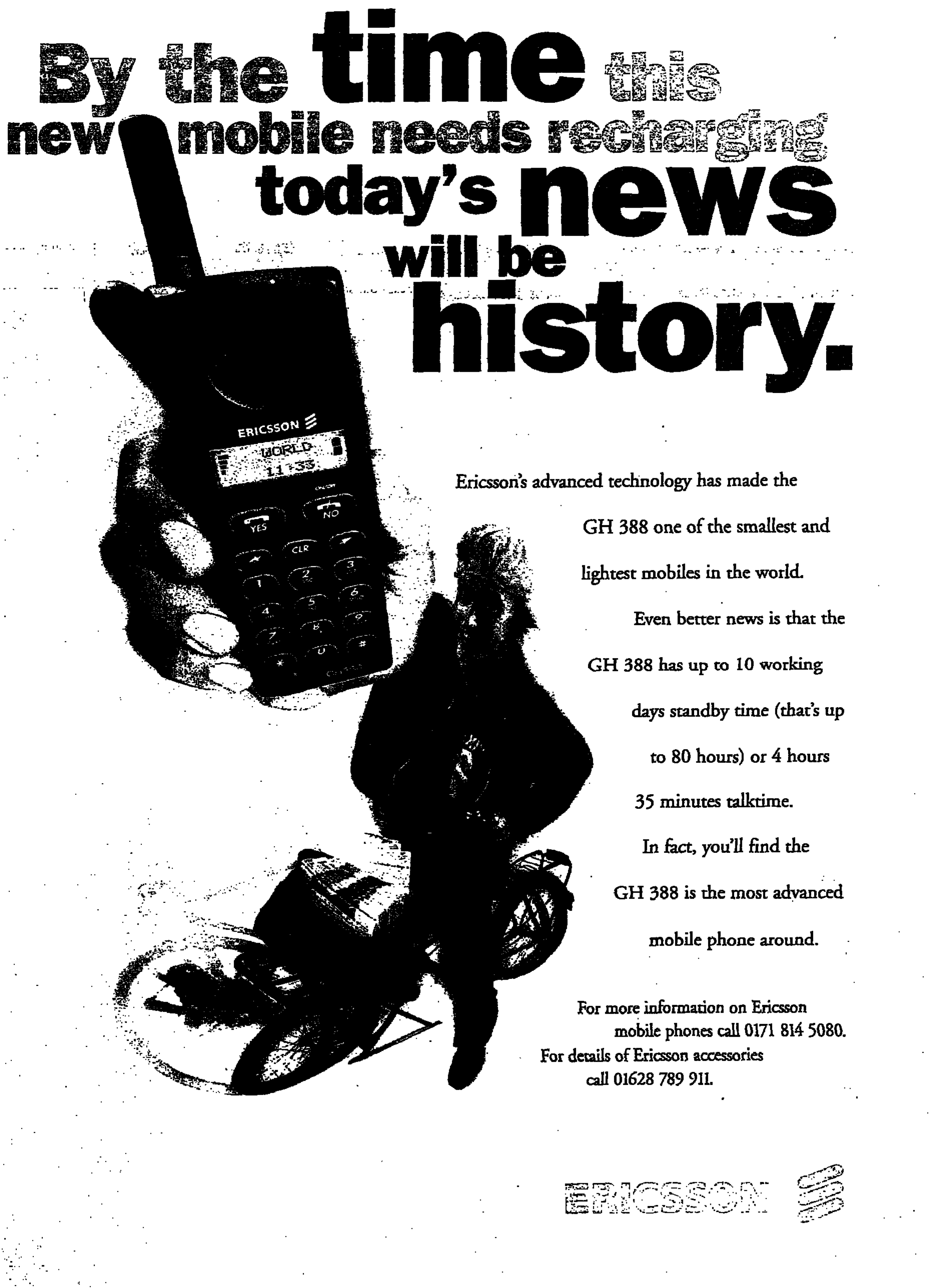
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Israel forced on to political defensive by massacre of Lebanon refugees

By Lawrence Freedman

COMMENTARY

SINCE Thursday's catastrophic strikes against Lebanese civilians and their United Nations protectors, Israel has been on the political defensive. Up to that point, its strategy was to pound away *until a refugee-induced* build-up of economic pressure led Beirut and Damascus to accept the need to restrain Hezbollah.

This strategy required time, and one criteria was to prevent a build-up of external political pressure to bring matters to a swift conclusion. Arab moderates were required to confine their displeasure to ritual condemnations. Western governments, fearful of an even harder-line Likud government, were *expected to give Israel the* benefit of the doubt.

Large-scale civilian casualties would inevitably be counterproductive, and so it has proved. With some grim exceptions, the operations up to Thursday had not produced the number of fatalities that the sheer amount of munitions involved might have led one to expect. But when whole families get blown to pieces, the costs seem to be disproportionate.

The West does not want to abandon Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, but it also does *not want* to accept the costs of rationalising Israeli actions. Hence the demands for an immediate ceasefire.

A unilateral ceasefire by Israel while Hezbollah attacks continued would be a disastrous outcome for Mr Peres. So long as the Katyushas keep on coming, he dare not stop Operation Grapes of Wrath. So yesterday, little seemed to have changed: rockets still fell on northern Israel; volleys of *artillery shells replied — only* now, it is much harder for Israel to be patient and sustain the operation at its previous level of ferocity.

Unless Israel is prepared to escalate its action by instituting large-scale ground operations in southern Lebanon, it has to seek a negotiated solution. Even this *option would depend on a failed* diplomatic effort which would confirm an Israeli interest and *Hezbollah disinterest in peace.*

Hezbollah may well feel under no pressure to agree to a ceasefire *except on favourable terms.* So far, things have been going its way politically, and to some extent militarily, in that just being able to continue firing its rockets is a victory of sorts. Most Arab governments, however, including Syria, recognise that confrontations such as this can escalate out of control: they will not want *Hezbollah to pass up an opportunity* to secure a ceasefire. Hence the optimism that a deal can be *reached.* One possibility would be a return to the 1993 understanding: Israeli troops on Lebanese soil would be considered fair game for ambush, but *Hezbollah* would eschew rocket attacks. Few would consider that much progress has been *made* if this was the best that could be achieved.

A more satisfactory settlement would be for Israel to find a way to evacuate its "security zone" in southern Lebanon. It has never had any *designs on* Lebanese territory and this zone has not been a great success.

Nonetheless Israel, like many insecure states, still feels its borders are safest when it controls *both sides.* It has demanded, in return for leaving the zone, a combination of Hezbollah promises, Syrian guarantees, international supervision and nine *months* of peace. Of these, the most flexibility probably rests with the *timing. The stronger the* guarantees, the earlier it might be able to leave Lebanon alone.

UN soldiers grieve over 'slaughterhouse' tactics

From Michael Theodoulou in Qana

REFUGEES

WHITE United Nations bulldozers tore at the twisted iron skeletons of two flimsy prefabricated huts where most of the 101 Lebanese refugees were killed at Qana, a desolate village five miles south of Tyre, itself a virtual ghost city.

"I want to go home," said Seni Leba, 33, a Fijian lance corporal, *sitting crumpled in a* shrapnel-pocked white Mercedes. "I can never again pick up pieces of little babies." He was unable to continue.

Major Josepha Savua, 44, took over: "Our camp was a slaughterhouse. We were slipping on blood and flesh. People were cut in half. Bodies were thrown everywhere. *This was cold-blooded murder.* Why?"

As we spoke, an Israeli Apache helicopter gunship hung like a dragonfly in the sky to the west. *Surrounding hills* and valleys rumbled to *the sound of incoming Israeli* artillery shells.

The UN said 300 were fired by noon yesterday. There had *already been eight* Israeli air raids on southern Lebanon. Overnight Hezbollah had fired 50 Katyusha rockets into northern Israel. Another massacre did not seem impossible. "We tried to communicate with the Unifil command when the Israelis started shelling yesterday, but we got cut off," said Major Savua. He added that 28 shells had rained down on the area over a 20-minute period, three hitting the camp, home to 161 Fijians who had been sheltering 850 Lebanese civilians.

The barrage came 15 minutes after six Hezbollah fighters fired two Katyusha rockets from near a cemetery, 300 yards from the camp. "We *urged them to stop, but it was* too late. After firing the rockets, they ran away," said Fijian staff sergeant Kelepi Nasaki. "It's dangerous trying to negotiate with Hezbollah," he said.

In Tyre's Najem Hospital, where *most* casualties and body bags were first taken, Shawie Balhas, 45, a father-of-12 — until the massacre — was *slamming his hand on the* wall and wailing in a room where two of his daughters, Fidaa, 9, and Siham, 16, lay on blood-soaked beds, both with horrific burns. Two of his sons were in another hospital.

"I can't find the others, there are eight more, and my wife, Tamimi. They must all be dead," he sobbed. He had sent them to Qana for safety.

Hamid Deeb, 27, was the only patient in another small room. The doctor pulled back the blankets on her bed to reveal blood-soaked, bandaged stumps. "We amputated her right arm and her left leg below the knee immediately," he said. As many as 25 of *her family* — cousins, uncle, nieces and nephews — were among the dead," he added.

"I can't remember much," said Miss Deeb. "We were eating in a building. Then there were flames. A [UN] soldier was trying to hold up the roof so we could be pulled out. He was bleeding. All his face was red with blood."

Eamonn Smyth, 44, from Dublin, a commandant at the UN's Tyre headquarters, was in a convoy of relief vehicles *trying to deliver aid to civilians* marooned in villages under Israeli fire when radio calls for assistance came from Qana. "When we got there, there were row upon row of bodies," he said. "The charred bodies of women and children everywhere. I've never seen anything so horrific in 22 years of soldiering."

The UN spokesman in Tyre, Mikael Lindvall, said Qana "was a disaster waiting to happen". As he spoke, many of the 200 refugees in the UN's Tyre base dived for cover as the earth shook from the explosive sonic boom of an Israeli warplane — reminding people that a noon deadline to flee Israel's free-fire zone had *expired. Every few minutes for* the next four hours Israeli gunboats pumped two or three shells into the coast.

Sweating motorists tuned into radios heard optimistic talk about a possible ceasefire. But optimism was not the word to describe the mood in southern Lebanon yesterday.

Letters, page 21

A young survivor of the Israeli raid on the UN refugee camp in Qana recovering in a Tyre hospital yesterday

Iran urges retaliation

Tehran: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader of Iran, yesterday urged Hezbollah guerrillas to strike back at Israel for the massacre of civilians in southern Lebanon.

In a message to Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the Tehran-backed Hezbollah, Ayatollah Khamenei said that he was "deeply saddened" by the Israeli shelling of the UN refugee compound. "Dignity requires that you withstand Zionist attacks and strike a blow to make them remorseful of their acts. The slightest sign of yielding would make [Israel] bolder and more beastly."

He added: "This great human catastrophe shows how bold the Zionists have become and how they disregard international norms."

Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, condemned the Israeli shelling of the UN compound in Cana as "a ruthless and savage act". (*AFP*)

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook
SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

M&G sides with BET in Rentokil bid battle

By Sarah Cunningham

BET, the business services company, received a big boost in its campaign to thwart a hostile £2.1 billion bid by Rentokil when its largest institutional shareholder pledged support for the incumbent management.

M&G Investment Management yesterday took the unusual step of publicly declaring its support for BET in respect of its 7.5 per cent holding with seven days remaining before the bid closes. The move strengthened BET's case in the escalating bid battle, which has until now been seen as going clearly Rentokil's way. One other large institutional investor said yesterday he expects Rentokil still to win, but others said it was too close to call.

BET yesterday made public a letter from M&G to Sir Christopher Harding, the BET chairman, endorsing the efforts of John Clark, chief executive, to restore the company's fortunes. "John has not only accomplished this most successfully, but has also been consistent in setting out his plans for the future and is now delivering results in line with these strategies," M&G said.

"BET has very attractive prospects and (we) look forward to the long-term benefits that we believe will accrue to our investors from BET remaining as an independent firm."

M&G has a record of supporting the incumbent management, having recently supported Amec in its successful fight to fend off a takeover bid from Kvaerner, of Norway. Rentokil declined to respond to M&G's declaration of support for BET, but restated its attack on BET's corporate strategy and prospects. Advisers to Rentokil, while disappointed by M&G's move, privately expressed confidence that the Rentokil bid would succeed.

One fund manager said yesterday he had reached a decision on which way to go and would delay voting until the last minute. He said that the M&G statement had not influenced his thinking.

He said: "I think it will be a very close run thing." He added: "In the last week, BET has put up a robust defence and Rentokil has put a robust attack."

Other institutional investors with significant stakes in BET are Prudential, Threadneedle, Hermes, BZW and Sun Life. Standard Life is one of the few firms with large shareholdings in both BET and Rento¾kil. In what appeared to be a hedging move, Sun Life sold 12.5 million of its 40 million BET shares on Thursday. Private shareholders account for less than 10 per cent of BET's shares.

Charles Pick, an analyst at Panmure Gordon, the broker, said M&G's move was not conclusive but said it was "a major coup on BET's part."

Rentokil is offering nine new shares and £10 in cash for every 20 BET shares, plus a 4p dividend. BET has described the offer as inadequate. BET shares closed at 202½p yesterday, down 3p. Rentokil fell 3p to 352p.

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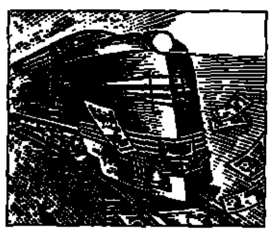
Anne Ashworth
on urgent action in the pension scandal

INVESTMENT



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Hanson poised to buy power stations

By Christine Buckley

EASTERN Group, the regional electricity company owned by Hanson, was poised yesterday to become Britain's fourth largest generator by buying stations worth more than £1.3 billion from National Power.

The deal, expected to be announced imminently, will put Eastern into the generating super-league behind National Power, PowerGen and the nuclear generators of British Energy. It will also anger critics of vertical integration — the combination of generation and distribution in one company.

Eastern is already the largest supplier of electricity in Britain, serving a customer base of three million.

Vertical integration is an issue in two bids for regional companies by National Power and PowerGen. A ruling is expected shortly from Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade. It has been recommended by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, but vehemently opposed by Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator.

The deal between Eastern and National Power is conditional on ratification by Mr Lang. National Power has previously argued that if it is not allowed to buy Southern Electric, for which it has bid £2.8 billion, it would not make competitive sense to sell power plant to a fast-growing vertically integrated company.

The expected deal with National Power — which was forced to sell plant by Professor Littlechild to encourage competition in generation — is for stations producing 4,000 megawatts and will cost between £1.3 and £1.7 billion. Last November, Eastern bought 2,000 megawatts of plant from PowerGen for £450 million after the generator complied with a similar sell-off order.

Eastern, which has a further 800 megawatts of plant commissioned or under construction, is now close to its goal, declared six years ago on privatisation, of being the third largest generator by 1998.

The deal with National Power for three coal-fired stations will be for 99-year leases with "earn-out" arrangements so the generator is paid a proportion of the bill over several years according to output. That way National Power retains an interest in the generation of the plant.

Separately, National Power is working to scupper a bid approach from Southern Company, of the US, by rushing through emergency talks with Southern Electric, its own intended bid target.

Talks are being held in an effort to push through a purchase as soon as Mr Lang clears the bid. If he rules in favour of vertical integration then a recommended offer will be made swiftly to shareholders.

They are negotiating a new price which could represent a substantial premium on the £2.8 billion offered last year before the bid was referred.

Once a sum is agreed, the bid could go through within 21 days. Such speed would leave Southern of the US scant time to persuade National Power shareholders to agree to its bid, which is likely to go hostile.

If the US company, which owns Sweb, the regional electricity company, tries to bid for the UK generator complete with its acquisition of Southern Electric (UK), it is certain to face referral to the MMC.

Melvyn Marckus, page 26

ROBERT MAYES

Edouard Gremlich, right, chief executive, and David Cook, finance director, yesterday

US buyers lift FT-SE to record

By Michael Clark
Stock Market Correspondent

SHARE prices on the London stock market surged to their highest levels ever as American investors embarked on a massive spending spree.

The FT-SE 100 index closed at its best of the day with a rise of 36.4 to 3,857.1. It stretches its lead on the week to 91 points, or 2.4 per cent, and brokers say the market may still have further to run. By the close of business 910 million shares had changed hands.

Brokers report that American investors have been switching out of Wall Street and into London where they feel better returns can be achieved. The sheer weight of American money and an absence of selling by domestic institutions has combined to squeeze prices sharply higher. It has also enabled the London market to shrug-off any disappointing economic news.

The expiry of the April options yesterday made it difficult for market-makers to cover exposed positions. Sentiment was further boosted by another liberal sprinkling of bid speculation that has been revived by this week's news that Southern Company, the US utility, wants to bid for National Power.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3857.1	(+36.4)
Yield	3.85%	
FT-SE A All share	1924.17	(+17.81)
Nikkei	21883.84	(+71.34)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5555.71	(+3.97)*
S&P Composite	646.83	(+3.22)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	89 27/32*	(89⅝)
Yield	6.80%*	(6.84%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5 31/32%	(6%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	106⅛	(105 29/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5170*	(1.5188)
London:		
$	1.5177	(1.5075)
DM	2.2851	(2.2795)
FFr	7.7537	(7.7316)
SFr	1.8550	(1.8527)
Yen	162.34	(162.01)
£ Index	83.9	(83.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5069*	(1.5025)
FFr	5.1083*	(5.0985)
SFr	1.2232*	(1.2180)
Yen	107.09*	(106.72)
$ Index	96.4	(96.7)

Tokyo close Yen 106.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$18.05	($17.75)

GOLD

London close	$390.55	($391.45)

* denotes midday trading price

Hotels group raises £180m in flotation

MILLENNIUM and Copthorne Hotels raised £180 million yesterday in its initial public offering, capitalising the group at £402 million (Eric Reguly writes). The company, which has 22 business hotels, said that it would use the funds to expand its four-star portfolio in North America.

Baring Brothers underwrote 64.7 million shares at 278p. The company said a notional net dividend of 4.7p in 1995 represents a gross yield of 2.1 per cent on the flotation price.

The offering reduced from 100 per cent to 55 per cent Millennium's ownership by CDL Hotels International, controlled by the Singapore billionaire, Kwek Leng Beng.

Tempus, page 28

Bank go-head for new clearing system

By Robert Miller

THE threat of a massive bank failure bringing the City to the edge of multi-million pound "systemic" collapse will be significantly reduced on Monday.

The Bank of England yesterday gave the green light to a new system capable of handling about £200 billion worth of instantaneous inter-bank transfers each day.

The introduction of the Real Time Gross Settlement system next week means that the days of messengers in individual livery carrying cheques worth millions of pounds between City houses have finally been buried. The formal inter-bank messenger service was ended in 1995 when the Town Clearing Service within the Square Mile was phased out.

Under the present system, details of inter-bank transfers are transmitted immediately on the Clearing House Automated Payment System, but the handing over of the actual money happens only at the end of every day. Typically, this might not be until 7.30pm.

What has particularly concerned the Bank of England and the Association for Payment Clearing Services is that the average volume transferred each day last year was £106 billion. That is rising steadily. On one day alone last month, more than £170 billion was transmitted.

Fraud inquiry at Littlewoods

By Jon Ashworth

FRAUD squad detectives are investigating allegations of a "substantial" fraud at Littlewoods, the pools-to-stores group owned by the secretive Moores family. John Baird, former head of the company's building services department, was dismissed in January, and is now the centre of the fraud squad inquiry. Two other employees were also dismissed, but are not being investigated.

Management was alerted to alleged irregularities by an anonymous letter. Littlewoods's in-house security team studied allegations that contracts with suppliers in Scotland had been over-inflated. They called in the Liverpool police fraud squad, who passed on their findings to police in Strathclyde. A report has been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service and the Procurator-Fiscal in Dumbarton.

The building services department is based at the Liverpool head office of the Littlewoods stores, and is responsible for fabric and fittings at 130 Littlewoods stores, along with distribution centres and head office. The stores division has annual sales of £700 million, and a "very substantial sum" is thought to be involved.

Mr Baird had been with the company for less than a year.

A spokesman said: "We're not ashamed to have detected this. The message is: if anyone is behaving like this, they are out."

The incident is the latest in a string of set-backs for Littlewoods, which has been rocked by internal family squabbles. In October 1994, three senior managers in the company's buying department were dismissed over fraud allegations.

Barry Dale, former chief executive, was dismissed in March 1995. Late last year, Mr Dale emerged at the head of a group seeking to buy Littlewoods for £1.2 billion. The bid was defeated, along with a rival £1.1 billion offer from N Brown, the mail order business.

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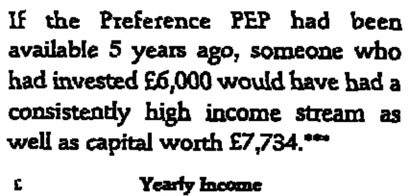

Source: Thornton Unit Managers Limited

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TT 20.04.96

US bidders wait on Lang to throw the switch

MELVYN MARCKUS

The latest developments in the power sector will hardly have come as a bolt from a pylon to readers of *The Times*. It was on April 1, in an article entitled *Power bidders braced for MMC's report*, that we first focused on speculation that the UK's two principal generating companies — National Power and PowerGen — were unlikely to prove bid-proof during the next round of consolidation within the sector. Last week, this column flagged the prospect of a transatlantic takeover bid for one of the Gencos and, on Wednesday, *The Times* exclusively disclosed that Southern Electric International, of Atlanta, Georgia, had its sights set on the acquisition of National Power.

It would appear that Southern US, which acquired SWEB for £1.1 billion during last year's open season for Recs, has been eyeing National Power since well before Christmas. Southern US, led by Thomas Boren, president and chief executive, clearly intended to do no more than carry on eyeing until Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, responded to the MMC's green lights for PowerGen's £1.9 billion takeover bid for Midlands Electricity and National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern UK. But, as Southern US negotiated the thick end of $10 billion worth of financing with a consortium of City banks, word leaked. On Tuesday, close on 13 million shares in National Power changed hands as the price soared 31½p to 521½p. The Takeover Panel, already familiar with Southern US's designs, directed SBC Warburg, Southern US's adviser, to issue a statement the following morning. Against this background, Mr Boren held a late meeting with John Baker, chairman of National Power, and Keith Henry, chief executive. This pumpkin hour parlez was, by all accounts, an amicable affair. Boren presumably outlined his vision of the creation of a Southern US/National Power global utility and, so it would seem, pressed for exploratory *têtes a têtes*.

Matters reached the public domain on Wednesday, the theme from Southern's camp being that, whatever *têtes a têtes* might ensue, "formal" merger talks would not take place until after Lang's response to the MMC's report.

The theme from National Power's camp was somewhat different. Their theme, albeit my words, was that talking was for wimps. Witness, come Thursday, Baker's blunt letter to Boren. Baker let it be known that there was "no point" in Boren's proposed meeting. He emphasised that National Power's strategy was focused on the acquisition, if cleared, of Southern UK and the expansion of international operations. Baker questioned Southern US's ability to "structure an acquisition which offers our shareholders fair value". Why, he asked, should National Power combine its business with SWEB rather than Southern UK? Just in case Mr Boren had not got the drift, Baker added: "If you make a proposal to us, including the price you would be proposing to offer to our shareholders, how it is to be financed and your plans for the business, my board will then consider whether it would be in the best interests of our shareholders and the business that we should respond positively to your request for a meeting." Baker concluded that National Power "is not and will not" be for sale unless "compelling value" for shareholders is "put forward in a credible way".

Mr Boren, whose approach to takeovers is reminiscent of Lord Hanson and the late Lord White — chat first, shoot later — is said to be deeply "disappointed" at National Power's reaction. That said, National Power has never been an easy enterprise to read. It was Baker who called for Scottish Power's £1.1 billion takeover bid for Manweb to be referred to the MMC and proclaimed that National Power would not bid for a Rec, a statement overtaken by its £2.8 billion foray for Southern UK. Not for the first time, speculation has it that Baker and Henry burn on different fuels, the "closed door" approach being perceived as a classic reaction from Henry, rather than Baker, a former Whitehall mandarin. National Power also enjoys a secret weapon in the non-executive personage of Sir Alastair Morton, the Eurotunnel chief genetically designed to cope with corporate crises.

The MMC's report on PowerGen/Midlands and National Power/Southern UK has been lying on Mr Lang's desk at the DTI since March 29. Everyone knows that the MMC has given a qualified green light for the bids because *The Times* disclosed this on March 6 and *The Economist*, with the benefit of a leaked copy of the report, confirmed our prediction a week ago. Mr Lang returned from overseas on April 15, and will pronounce on the MMC's findings before April 30, the traditional days for such activities being Tuesdays and Thursdays. The longer the Government delays, the more inept it looks. Suffice to say that Lang may, or may not, speak early next week.

The panel, spearheaded by Graeme Odgers, chairman of the MMC, voted four to one in favour of clearance, the dissenting voice being Patricia Hodgson, the BBC's director of policy and planning.

The MMC's conclusion is that although the mergers "may be expected to operate against the public interest" in certain respects, these are not "sufficiently serious to justify prohibition". This wording, in theory, permits Lang to reject the MMC's findings, witness a massive behind-the-scenes campaign to discredit the MMC.

Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of Offer, remains passionately opposed to vertical integration but, on balance, the City still expects Lang to accept the MMC's recommendations.

Should Lang give a go ahead, PowerGen and National Power will press ahead with their respective bids. Should Lang reject the MMC's recommendations, Midlands, in which PowerGen holds a 21 per cent stake, could well attract a bid from General Public Utilities of the US. Also waiting on Lang is Houston Industries, reputed to be lining up an offer for London Electric 8p higher last week at 817p.

Southern US can choose to rumble or withdraw from its National Power play but, should it go hostile, its opening gambit is unlikely to be significantly above National Power's current quote of 592p — up 100p on an eventful week.

G7 focus will fall on weakness in Europe's economy

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE dollar's rally over the past year against the Japanese yen and the Bundesbank's beautifully timed cut in German interest rates on Thursday create a relatively positive backdrop to tomorrow's meeting of the Group of Seven industrialised countries in Washington.

The overvaluation of the yen against the dollar was last year's big issue but officials are now generally satisfied after the dollar's appreciation of around 35 per cent against the yen in the past year.

Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, reaffirmed on Thursday that a strong dollar was in the interests of America, and Wataru Kobe, Japan's finance minister, said that G7 co-operation on currencies will continue. The yen has been appreciating again recently in response to signs that the Japanese economy may be recovering from its long stagnation and this trend will be discussed tomorrow, and watched closely.

The bigger question for the G7 now is the chronic weakness in European economies and the strength of the mark. The Bundesbank's move on Thursday to cut its discount and Lombard rates by half a point was meant to address both these issues. The German central bank has often moved rates just before international meetings and, yet again, it has taken heat off the German contingent.

There were rate cuts yesterday by Ireland, Greece and Portugal, and Spanish and French bond markets rallied strongly in the expectation that next week will see rate cuts in these countries, too.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, which begins its spring meeting on Monday, urged France last week to follow Germany's lead. The IMF poured doubt on Europe's ability to move to monetary union by 1999 unless it can boost economic growth through lower interest rates.

In spite of Germany's move, it is likely the squeeze on European growth of current efforts to cut budget deficits down to Maastricht treaty limits will feature large in discussions tomorrow.

The other major issue on the agenda is the current drive to agree a comprehensive package of debt reduction for the world's poorest countries. Last week there were indications that a fight is looming between the G7 and the IMF over who will bear the bulk of the cost. The ongoing crisis in the Russian economy will also be discussed.

Planet Hollywood at 66% premium

From Richard Thomson in New York

PLANET HOLLYWOOD, the restaurant chain backed by film stars such as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis, soared to a 66 per cent premium when its shares opened on Wall Street's Nasdaq over-the-counter stock market yesterday.

Amid frenzied dealing, investors battled to get hold of shares, forcing the price up from an initial $18 to more than $30, in what has been one of the most popular share issues of the year. The issue raised $194 million.

Film stars who have lent their names to the restaurant chain's publicity have been given shares. The biggest winners, however, are the co-founders, Keith Barish and Robert Earl. Mr Earl is the British entrepreneur who was previously involved in the Hard Rock Cafe. They each own about a third of the company and are now worth more than $200 million each.

At the $18 issue price, Planet Hollywood was valued at $1.9 billion, but the price rise has now put its value at more than $3 billion. The chain made a profit last year — $20 million — for the first time since it was founded in 1991. It has plans to open a further 15 restaurants this year.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Richard Upton, front, and Richard Mais

CN&C seeking out candidates for acquisition

CLARKE, Nickolls & Coombs, the revitalised property investment company, said yesterday that acquisitions and mergers remain a high priority.

The company, whose chief executive is Richard Mais, has increased the final dividend 50 per cent to 0.15p, making a total of 0.27p (0.2p). Pre-tax profits rose to £1.5 million in 1995 from £1.2 million previously, while earnings rose to 0.82p a share (0.68p).

During the year, a 22 per cent shareholding was taken by institutional investors, including M&G, HSBC, Thornton and Glaxo Trustees. Richard Upton, chairman, and Andrew Nedham, property director, control Longworth Investments, which acquired a 29.9 per cent stake.

Chances of fast BT and C&W deal diminish

By Eric Reguly

CABLE and Wireless and BT have indicated that it will probably take several weeks, or even months, before an agreement is struck to create the the world's first truly global telecoms group.

Although progress is being made, the companies said that the talks could break down at any moment, as they have once before. A source close to the talks said: "It could be decided that the hurdles are insurmountable. If it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen. Shareholder value is the central factor at the end of the day."

Shares of both companies retreated yesterday as chances of a fast deal diminished. C&W closed at 540p, down 6p, while BT fell 2p to 377p.

C&W and BT have reached broad agreement on the structure of the deal, but little else. They would come together in a reverse takeover, in which C&W would become the technical owner of the larger BT. The company would operate under the C&W name because it is much better known internationally; the BT name would be used only in the UK.

The structure is designed to preserve C&W's trading relationships in the 50 or so countries in which it operates. If BT took control of C&W instead of the other way round, C&W's foreign licences probably would become invalid.

Among the most important outstanding issues are determining the value of Hongkong Telecom, which is 57.5 per cent owned by C&W, and deciding what presence the new group should have in Germany. C&W and BT have competing alliances there and, in all probability, one of them will have to be sacrificed.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Vision Group rises on Fisher-Price link

VISION GROUP has reached agreement with Fisher-Price, the US toy company, to supply image sensors for use in a children's toy instant camera. It also announced plans to raise £3.5 million via a share placing of 1.5 million new shares at 227p each to fund expansion.

News of the Fisher-Price deal boosted Vision's share price by 18p to 257p in spite of the company reporting a half-year loss. The new Fisher-Price Creative Effects camera enables children to take instant pictures with fun special effects. Vision, which was floated a year ago, disclosed a loss of £895,000 before tax in the six months to January 31, in line with expectations. Turnover in the first half rose 32 per cent to £1.1 million. Vision will step up production in the second half of this year after signing several sales agreements. One is with Tyco Inc, a US toymaker, which is to make a black and white video camera and in a deal with Vivitar, Vision is to supply a colour camera chip for use in videoconferencing.

Microsoft 42% ahead

MICROSOFT achieved a 42 per cent jump in third-quarter earnings, comfortably ahead of expectations and showing no sign of injury from the worlwide slowdown in computer sales this year. Net income for the three months to March 31 rose to $563 million ($395 million) on revenues of $2.2 billion. Microsoft's performance is considerably stronger than many other personal computer companies, which have been suffering from difficult market conditions. Its success is partly because of the new Windows 95 software which delivers a higher margin of profit than Microsoft's previous software.

Amec buys BR service

AMEC has bought British Rail's South West Infrastructure Maintenance Company, which provides maintenance, engineering and construction services in the geographic area bounded by London, Hastings, East Sussex, and Exeter in Devon, and including Victoria and Waterloo mainline stations. Amec, the international construction and engineering group, is paying £11 million for the business, which employs 2,200 people. South West IMC's principal customer is Railtrack, which accounts for about 70 per cent of turnover.

Laing wins £100m deal

JOHN LAING, the construction group, has been awarded a £100 million contract to build the shell of the National Superdrome sports, entertainment, convention and exhibition complex in Bradford. Laing, one of three contractors shortlisted for the project, will also have the opportunity to negotiate fitting-out work worth a further £100 million. Preparatory work on the 70-acre site at Odsal begins later this month. Superdome will provide a 65,000-seat sports complex, two hotels, a multi-screen cinema and shopping mall. Laing shares were unchanged at 322p yesterday.

Halifax buys loan book

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY has purchased the £340 million UK residential mortgage book of France's Banque Paribas. The purchase maintains Halifax Home Loans, a wholly-owned subsidiary, as one of the UK's largest centralised lenders, with assets of more than £3 billion. Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Halifax, said: "Acquisition of good quality mortgage books continues to be a logical move by Halifax in a highly competitive mortgage market and complements the organic growth of the society." Paribas will now concentrate on its specialist financial services activities.

Courtaulds tests Japan

COURTAULDS, the UK chemicals and fibres company, has moved to get its revolutionary man-made Lyocell yarn into the Japanese market. Courtaulds and Akzo Nobel, its development partner, have agreed with Japan's Asahi Chemical Company to assess the potential demand in Japan. Made from wood pulp, Lyocell filament fabrics look like silk and feel like cashmere, but are said to be strong as denim. Akzo Nobel is producing the fibre in Obernburg, Germany. Courtaulds' contribution and product know-how comes from Tencel, its Lyocell staple fibre.

Shell to cut back on refining in Europe

By Carl Mortished

SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, said yesterday that it would cut back its refining capacity in Europe. Cor Herkströter, group chairman, said that the company intended to reduce overcapacity, particularly in France, while expanding refining operations in South-East Asia.

The company would not give details of how the reduction would be achieved, but market speculation is centred on Berre L'Etang, a small French refinery with 127,000 barrels per day of distillation capacity. Shell has already announced plans to reduce its operations at Shellhaven in the UK.

Among European countries, France suffers most from refining and marketing overcapacity. Total, the French oil company, recently indicated that it was interested in a joint venture to cut capacity. Nick Antill, oil analyst at BZW, said that there was a reluctance among oil companies to act alone in cutting refining operations because of the prospect of then being forced to supply their own petrol stations with gasoline from rival sources.

Noises from Shell about action on refining come after BP's restructuring of its American and European refineries and a $5 billion pan-European joint venture with Mobil in refining and marketing fuels and lubricants.

New GKN chief executive

By Clare Stewart

GKN, the engineering group, has confirmed the long awaited appointment of a new chief executive.

It has named Chung Kong Chow, at present managing director and chief executive of BOC Gases, the largest part of the BOC group.

GKN has been looking for a new chief executive since Sir David Lees last year announced his intention to split his role as chairman and chief executive. Sir David welcomed the appointment. "At a time when GKN is pursuing new opportunities for growth in global markets, he will add an important international dimension to our top management team," he said.

It is the first time GKN has appointed an outsider to its top job. However, it denied its six-month search for a chief executive has taken longer than anticipated. A spokesman said: "The aim was always to have an announcement before this year's AGM, so we are on schedule."

Mr Chow, who was born in Hong Kong, joined BOC Group in 1977 and is credited with the strong performance of BOC Gases, which last year saw profits rise 13 per cent to £374.2 million.

His departure from the group is not unexpected. He missed out on the top job at BOC with the appointment of Danny Rosencrantz as group chief executive in January.

Mr Chow is expected to join GKN some time before his official start date of January 1997. Mr Rosencrantz will assume responsibility for the running of BOC Gases.

GKN shares rose 9p to 992p, while BOC ended at 916p, up 2p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.04	1.88
Austria Sch	17.03	15.53
Belgium Fr	48.83	45.53
Canada $	2.176	2.016
Cyprus Cyp£	0.751	0.696
Denmark Kr	9.42	8.62
Finland Mkk	7.74	7.09
France Fr	8.15	7.50
Germany Dm	2.43	2.22
Greece Dr	386.00	361.00
Hong Kong $	12.39	11.39
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.2300	4.5800
Italy Lira	2488.00	2333.00
Japan Yen	176.30	160.30
Malta	0.593	0.538
Netherlds Gld	2.703	2.473
New Zealand $	2.36	2.14
Norway Kr	10.42	9.62
Portugal Esc	245.00	228.50
S Africa Rd	6.96	6.16
Spain Pta	197.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	10.80	10.00
Switzerland Fr	1.99	1.81
Turkey Lira	116360.	108360.
USA $	1.615	1.485

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

THE SUNDAY TIMES

POWER STRUGGLE

"National Power, Britain's largest electricity generator, is preparing for a battle royal against a determined corporate aggressor — Southern Group of Atlanta — which is poised to launch a near-£7 billion bid that would transform the UK power game . . ."

Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Agreed Offer by
SBC Warburg
A DIVISION OF SWISS BANK CORPORATION
on behalf of
TR Pacific Investment Trust PLC
(incorporated in England, number 2153093;
registered as an investment company under Section 266 Companies Act 1985)
for the whole of the ordinary share capital of
Thornton Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust plc

Up to £7,500,000 nominal of TR Pacific Ordinary Shares and up to £10,000,000 nominal of TR Pacific "C" Shares

SBC Warburg announces on behalf of TR Pacific Investment Trust PLC ("TR Pacific") that, by means of a formal offer document (the "Offer Document") dated and despatched on 19 April 1996, SBC Warburg is making an agreed offer (the "Offer") on behalf of TR Pacific to acquire all the ordinary shares of 10p each in Thornton Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust plc ("TAEMIT") in issue on 19 April 1996, or allotted or issued prior to the date on which the Offer closes (or such earlier date, not being earlier than the date on which the Offer becomes unconditional as to acceptances or, if later, the first closing date of the Offer, as TR Pacific may determine) ("TAEMIT Shares").

A person who accepts the Offer (but does not accept the Cash Alternative described below) will receive such number of new TR Pacific Ordinary Shares, each valued at 103 per cent of the TR Pacific net asset value (the "TR Pacific NAV"), as shall have a total value equal to the TAEMIT formula asset value (the "TAEMIT FAV") in respect of that TAEMIT shareholder's shareholding and TR Pacific "C" Shares (as described below).

The TAEMIT FAV will be calculated, as at the date on which the Offer becomes or is declared unconditional as to acceptances (the "Unconditional Date"), in accordance with the formula set out in Appendix I of the Offer Document. The TR Pacific NAV will be the net asset value of one TR Pacific Ordinary Share as at the Unconditional Date, ignoring TR Pacific's expenses of the Offer and the uplift in TR Pacific's net asset value expected to result from the Offer.

The number of new TR Pacific Ordinary Shares to which an accepting TAEMIT shareholder will become entitled under the Offer can only be determined after the Unconditional Date. By way of illustration only, however, had the Offer become unconditional as to acceptances on 15 April 1996 (the latest practicable date prior to the date of the Offer Document), based on TR Pacific's calculation of its NAV of 122.7p and its estimate of the TAEMIT FAV of 122.6p at that date, an accepting holder of 1,000 TAEMIT Shares would have been entitled to receive 970 new TR Pacific Ordinary Shares, together with a proportionate amount of TR Pacific "C" Shares.

The TR Pacific Ordinary Shares will be issued credited as fully paid and will rank pari passu in all respects with the existing TR Pacific Ordinary Shares, save that they will not rank for any dividend or distribution in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 1995.

A Cash Alternative is available on the basis of an amount in cash equal to 99 per cent of the TAEMIT FAV for each TAEMIT Share. The Cash Alternative is available instead of the new TR Pacific Ordinary Shares to which an accepting TAEMIT shareholder would otherwise be entitled under the Offer and is in addition to the TR Pacific "C" Shares to which each such TAEMIT shareholder is entitled.

The Offer has been structured to segregate TAEMIT's interests in the ChinaVest II-A Limited Partnership ("ChinaVest"). The TAEMIT FAV excludes ChinaVest, so that the number of new TR Pacific Ordinary Shares receivable by accepting TAEMIT shareholders will not take into account the value of TAEMIT's interest in ChinaVest. Instead, an accepting TAEMIT shareholder will (whether he chooses new TR Pacific Ordinary Shares or elects for the Cash Alternative) receive such number of TR Pacific "C" Shares as represent the same proportion of TAEMIT's interest in ChinaVest as is represented by that TAEMIT shareholder's holding.

The TR Pacific "C" Shares will not rank for any dividend or other distribution paid or made by TR Pacific other than any distribution of income derived from the ChinaVest assets nor will they carry any right to attend or vote at general meetings of TR Pacific. Further particulars of the TR Pacific "C" Shares are set out in the Listing Particulars dated 19 April 1996 which accompanied the Offer Document.

The Offer is conditional on, inter alia, the approval by TR Pacific shareholders of the acquisition of TAEMIT and on the admission of the new TR Pacific Ordinary Shares and TR Pacific "C" Shares to the Official List. The full terms and conditions of the Offer (including details of how the Offer may be accepted) are set out in the Offer Document.

The Offer is, by means of this advertisement, extended to all persons to whom the Offer Document may not be despatched who hold, or who are entitled to have allotted to them, TAEMIT Shares. Such persons are informed that copies of the Offer Document, the Listing Particulars relating to TR Pacific, which should be read in conjunction therewith, and Forms of Acceptance are available for collection from New Issues Department, Independent Registrars Group Limited, P.O. Box 166, Bourne House, 34 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 4TH. In addition, copies of the Listing Particulars may be obtained during normal business hours from the Company Announcements Office, Capel Court Entrance (accessed via Bartholomew Lane), London Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC1N 1HP up to and including 23 April 1996 for collection only and from TR Pacific Investment Trust PLC, 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA during any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) until 4 May 1996.

The Offer will initially be open for acceptance until 3.00 p.m. on 10 May 1996.

The Offer is not being made, directly or indirectly, in or into, or by use of the mails of, or by any means or instrumentality (including, without limitation, the post, facsimile transmission, telex and telephone) of interstate or foreign commerce of, or of any facility of a national securities exchange of, the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan and the Offer cannot be accepted by any such use, means or instrumentality or from within the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan.

The new TR Pacific Ordinary Shares and the TR Pacific "C" Shares to be issued pursuant to the Offer have not been, and will not be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933 (as amended) or under any of the securities laws of any state of the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan. Accordingly, unless an exception under such Act or laws is available, the new TR Pacific Ordinary Shares and the TR Pacific "C" Shares may not be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan.

This advertisement is not being published or otherwise distributed or sent in, into or from the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan. All persons reading this advertisement (including custodians, trustees and nominees) who would, or otherwise intend to, forward this advertisement, the Offer Document or any related documents must not distribute or send them in, into or from the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan and doing so will render invalid any related purported acceptance of the Offer.

This advertisement is published on behalf of TR Pacific and has been approved by SBC Warburg, a division of Swiss Bank Corporation, for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986.

The Directors of TR Pacific accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

SBC Warburg, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PP is the sponsor to the issue of the new TR Pacific Ordinary Shares and the TR Pacific "C" Shares.

20 April 1996

TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

sion Group rises
Fisher-Price link

crosoft 42% ahead

ec buys BR servic

ing wins £100m deal

ifax buys loan book

urtaulds tests Japan

POWER STRUGGLE

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: PHILLIP THORPE

An able protector on the investment front line

Robert Miller talks to the Kiwi charged with ensuring that investors can sleep easy

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Wine and poses: Phillip Thorpe, chief executive of Imro, who mixes his vital City watchdog role with a spot of viticulture as owner of a vineyard in the Loire region

Phillip Thorpe is the custodian of £1,000 billion. He is not a tycoon and the money is not his. Nevertheless, if any of it goes missing he will be held accountable, and the chances of him keeping his job as a senior City watchdog will be slim indeed. If he gets it right, however, we all get to sleep easier.

The 41-year-old New Zealander is chief executive of a body known by the cumbersome title of the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation — more simply identified by its acronym of Imro. Thorpe's beat as a frontline regulator is to ensure that those charged with looking after money invested on our behalf in pension funds or unit and investment trusts do so properly. *Sadly,* his brief does not stretch to how well the money managers perform.

Thorpe, who has practised as a solicitor and a barrister, is well aware of the pitfalls in his job. If there is one constant nightmare it is that of a late-night call to tell him a "black hole" has appeared in a pension fund. Thorpe knows all about that. He got his present job in July 1993 with the express instruction to save Imro from extinction after the Robert Maxwell affair.

Imro regulated Bishopsgate Investment Management and London and Bishopsgate Investment Management, two of the companies that looked after the Maxwell pension funds and in which there was an unexplained shortfall of £440 million.

Imro was heavily criticised by MPs, pensioners, consumer groups and just about everybody else. Thorpe recalls: "I came in because there was a great deal of doubt about the future of Imro and there was a lot of work to be done." Since that low point, Imro has made up lost ground, so much so that Thorpe started this week by launching a radical blueprint for the way in which his charges are regulated in the future and, more importantly, how consumers need to be better informed.

On Monday, he started the ball rolling on what is likely to be a long-term project. It has certainly occupied most of this week with a series of meetings, presentations and phone calls to explain the result of Imro's research. And those results should give anyone who has invested their money serious food for thought.

Thorpe, whose first job on leaving New Zealand was a two-year stint in the tiny island republic of Nauru, in the South Pacific, as public prosecutor, film censor and registrar of births, deaths and marriages, says: "It is time to recognise and address the fact that the achievement of adequate investor protection by conventional financial regulation alone remains an elusive, and probably unattainable, goal. Investors must be better prepared for the financial decisions they must take."

Thorpe adds: "Financial regulation is actually a social policy. Whichever government is in power it is an inescapable fact that people are having to make more and more provision for themselves, rather than rely on the State. This applies to pensions and retirement as much as long-term care and critical illness policies." The bottom line for Thorpe and his fellow regulators is "that people do not want to find themselves penniless and ripped-off".

Thorpe, who studied politics and law, was enticed to the UK in 1989 by Christopher Sharples, former head of the Securities and Futures Authority, a fellow watchdog with responsibility for brokers and futures dealers. Thorpe had moved to Hong Kong from Nauru in 1981 to work for the colony's Government. He moved rapidly up the promotion ladder and in October 1987 was appointed chief executive of the Hong Kong Futures Exchange to assist it through the aftermath of the worldwide stock market crash. Thorpe says of his time in Hong Kong: "It was a very interesting period and I was introduced to some extremely unsavoury characters. But knowing someone is bent is different from proving it."

It is this theme of proof that is exercising Thorpe and his fellow regulators in the UK. "In disciplinary proceedings we have to provide a very high level of proof that is sometimes even more demanding than in a criminal case."

On Thursday, Thorpe was delighted when the SFA confirmed that it was considering making details of its disciplinary proceedings more transparent. The SFA decision came after an earlier public outcry over an investigation into the role played by senior executives at Barings before the crash. The SFA announced that Peter Baring, the former chairman, had agreed that he would never work in the City again, while his deputy, Andrew Tuckey, had agreed to play a restricted role. It subsequently transpired that a restricted role meant retiring at 52 on an annual pension of around £120,000 and that he could expect to receive a further sum of some £110,000 for consultancy work at ING Barings.

The public perception was that the two most senior men in charge of the 233-year-old merchant bank at the time of the £860 million crash, and who had, albeit unwittingly, benefited from handsome bonuses based on Nick Leeson's bogus trading, had got off scot-free. Wrong but nevertheless understandable. As Thorpe says, to bring a full-blown disciplinary case and prove that "an act of misconduct" has been committed is becoming even more difficult in these increasingly litigious times.

Sharples says of Thorpe: "He has energy and undoubted talents, but he has a habit of sheering off at a tangent and needs to be brought back on track." This habit was evident last summer when Thorpe let it be widely known that he intended to be savagely critical of the role played by the Securities and Investments Board, the most senior City watchdog, when he gave evidence to the Commons Treasury Select Committee to back his previously submitted written evidence. Suitably briefed, the MPs waited for the flak to fly. They waited in vain. Afterwards, Thorpe, who has five children from two marriages, said that he felt "constrained and unable to say all I wanted to". The allegation was that he had been gagged by Charles Nunneley, the Imro chairman on the instructions of Andrew Large, the SIB chairman. Both parties strongly denied the allegation. Thorpe felt his job was under threat and said at the time: "I felt it was difficult to reconcile the substantial differences between the written submission and my answer to questions" at the Commons. The committee then considered whether a witness had been tampered with and thus whether a breach of parliamentary privilege had occurred. In the end, the matter was quietly dropped. Thorpe had survived.

Thorpe's fellow regulators delivered equally damning verdicts on the SIB's role in City regulation but did so in a somewhat more restrained manner. But as Thorpe said this week: "The SIB has restructured and we the frontline regulators are being allowed the room to get on and do our job." Whether last summer's outburst has affected Thorpe's long-term prospects of achieving a higher position in the pecking order remains to be seen, but at least he tackled the issues head-on as he has done again this week, albeit in a milder way.

If he were to quit, Thorpe has another business to go into and even this week he was making sure that he attended to it when he had the time. Thorpe owns a vineyard in the Loire region of France where his two young children live with his wife Melinda or Mel, a former stockbroker. The 22½-acre vineyard produces some 5,000 cases of *bubbly* and a *still* Chenin blanc. Customers now include top restaurants such as Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons, L'Ortolan, near Reading, and RSJ in London.

If Thorpe were to quit the regulatory scene investors would undoubtedly lose an able and charismatic protector who still has a lot to offer. He seems unfazed at the prospect and even less so that he might not sell all of his wine. As he says: "I can always drink it."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Courtaulds' silver shines through the generations

Visitors to the Courtauld Galleries at Somerset House may be drawn by an impressive collection of elegant silverware displayed in the anteroom to the Great Room upstairs. The fine silver pieces are notable for their superb modelling, their simplicity and their restraint. Perhaps most notable of all is that they were made by three generations of the Courtauld family, between 1710 and 1778.

It is only recently that the silverware has been brought together in its entirety. The collection has been built up over the past 70 years and is now one of the most significant private collections in the country, consisting of high-quality pieces that show all the best standards of work associated with refugee Huguenot goldsmiths of the period.

Augustin Courtauld IV, a French merchant, arrived with his family in 1687 from Ile d'Oleron near La Rochelle. He apprenticed two of his sons to the master goldsmith Simon Pantin. The elder son, also Augustin, served under Pantin from 1701 until 1708, before establishing his own premises in St Martin-in-the-Fields. Augustin cornered the market in supplying the London aristocracy with silver vessels for the new drinks of the day — tea, coffee and chocolate. He also developed an important line in two-handled cups. One, dated 1714, bears an inscription recording the friendship between Robert Boyle (1627-1715), of the Royal Society, and Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury (1643-1715).

His business did well and his son, Samuel, born in 1720, also served in his father's workshop. Samuel Courtauld's mark appears on the more sumptuous domestic pieces in the collection, including a 1748 rococo tea kettle and stand and a 1751 soup tureen with applied foliage and rams' feet. Samuel moved his premises to Cornhill as the business expanded, but he died in 1765, aged 45. After only 19 years in the craft, he had achieved the same smithing status as his father.

Louisa Courtauld's 1765 cup and cover

His widow, Louisa, with her husband's former apprentice, George Cowles, produced some fine silver made in the neo-classical style. Examples include a restrained and finely decorated bread basket, dated 1771, and a further series of two-handled cups and covers. Louisa's son, Samuel II, joined her in the business until 1780 when it was sold, so ending the family tradition.

The collection has recently been crowned with the inclusion of a silver gilt cup and cover bearing the joint marks of Louisa and Samuel II. Her other son, George, was apprenticed to a silk throwster in Spitalfields and began the family connection with the silk industry from which Courtaulds and Courtaulds Textiles ultimately grew.

"The collection makes a point about the quality of design and the high standards of craftsmanship of Courtauld," says David Stevens, deputy company secretary of Courtaulds. "It is something we would certainly like to keep intact — it shows we have been around for three centuries now, and we would like to be around for a little bit longer yet."

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Wm Morrison could be next target in store wars

A takeover setback saw Lloyds TSB share price slip

CITY investors are pinning their hopes on a further contraction of the food retailing market.

Whispers circulating in the Square Mile yesterday claimed that J Sainsbury or Argyll, the Safeway supermarket chain, may be about to pounce on Wm Morrison Supermarket, one of the few remaining independent food retailers.

Shares of **Morrison** touched 177p at one stage, before ending the session 7p better at a new high of 171p.

By the close of business almost four million shares had changed hands in a market which is so thin that traders will normally only quote a price for 25,000 shares at a time.

The latest burst of speculation follows revived talk that Ken Morrison, the chairman and managing director, wants to call it a day and may be looking for a buyer for his stake. The speculators see this as opening the door to a predator.

At the last count, Mr *Morrison directly owned 91.4* million shares, or almost 13 per cent of the trader's issued share capital.

City speculators have been saying for some time that William Morrison would eventually go the same way as William Low, which was snapped up two years ago by Tesco.

Sainsbury is seen as the favourite candidate to make a bid in order to regain market share from Tesco. **Sainsbury** itself ended 3½p lower at 361½p, with **Argyll** 5p firmer at 334p and **Tesco** 1p dearer at 289p.

The rest of the equity market resumed its record-breaking run, fuelled by a number of factors that ranged from American buying and the absence of institutional sellers to the expiry of the April options. The latter forced hard-pressed market-makers to try to cover exposed positions.W

With fund managers refusing to turn sellers, however, their task was made that much more difficult. Stock shortages still persist and this is expected to continue driving prices higher.

The FT-SE 100 index ended the week on a high note, closing at its best of the day with a rise of 36.4 to an all-time high of 3,857.1. This stretches the rise on the week to 91 points, or 2.4 per cent. A total of 910 million shares were traded.

Once again there was a liberal sprinkling of takeover talk among leading shares, which helped to keep sentiment on the boil. **Thorn EMI** *rose another 33p to £18.13 on* persistent talk that a bid may be imminent. Time Warner of the US, or Viacom, are said to be poised to bid £23 a share.

Bid speculation in **Cable & Wireless** boiled over as the price retreated 4½p to 541½p. This follows reports that the Chinese Government may drag its feet and take upwards of a year to agree the proposed merger between the company and **BT**, its biggest rival,which finished 1½p lighter at 377½p.

Lloyds TSB's attempt to secure a hat-trick of acquisitions suffered a setback when it emerged that Westpac, the Australian bank, had stepped in with a NZ$1.27 billion (£574 million) offer for Trust Bank of New Zealand. Trust Bank said its eight community trusts, accounting for 76 per cent of the shares, had decided to *accept the offer, which tops* terms previously negotiated by Lloyds TSB. Lloyds TSB was ½p lighter at 327½p.

The rerating continues apace at **Williams Holdings**, the fast growing industrial conglomerate, where the shares breached their 12-month high with a rise of 5p to 351p.

BET, the subject of an unwanted £2.1 billion from Rentokil, slipped 3p to 202½p as its hopes of retaining its independence took a turn for the better. M&G Investment Management, with a 7.5 per cent stake, has pledged its support and intends to reject the improved terms from Clive Thompson's Rentokil. The terms of Rentokil's offer are now worth 217p a share, valuing the entire company at £2.1 billion.

M&G describes BET's long-term prospects as attractive and says the best results will be obtained by the company maintaining its independence.

The bid still has a week left *to run. While the move by* M&G will come as a setback to Rentokil's cause, most brokers believe that the odds are still stacked against BET.

Clive Thompson was scathing of BET's performance. He said the group had once again failed to "clarify issues that are key to its future performance". **Rentokil** eased 3p to 352p.

Premier Farnell, formerly Farnell Electronics until its recent £1.8 billion acquisition of Premier Industries in the US, put in a late spurt to finish 27p up on the day at 717p ahead of full-year figures on Monday.

The group has already forecast pre-tax profits up from *£62 million to £75 million.*

Queens Moat extended this week's run with a rise of 2p to 31p after announcing plans to dispose of a total of 25 hotels. Of this number, 19 trade under the County name, with the remainder included as part of the Moat House chain. The proceeds from the sale will be used to reduce debt.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The London market took its lead from German bunds to end the week on a firm note.

Brokers described trading conditions as less volatile than of late, with investors looking cautiously ahead at next week's auction and retail sales numbers.

Demand was weighted towards the shorter end of the market-place, resulting in a steepening of the yield curve.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt climbed £$\frac{13}{32}$ to £106⅛ as the number of contracts completed contracted to 41,000.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose £$\frac{7}{16}$ to £98, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was seven ticks better at £102$\frac{7}{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street followed bonds and the dollar higher on the back of high-technology shares. Microsoft's better than expected third-quarter profits helped the Dow Jones industrial average 3.97 points higher at 5,555.71.

British Gas was the second most actively traded stock in the top 100, with 21 million shares traded as the price rose 10p to 250½p. Once again there is talk that BP may bid for British Gas, where 7,000 contracts were recorded on the traded options market among the September 260p series, equivalent to a further 7 million shares.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
National Power	592p	+100p	Proposed bid by Southern
Southern Electric	859p	-34p	Awaiting National Power bid
Boots	644p	+29p	NatWest buy recommendation
Dixons	500p	+15p	Positive presentation to brokers
Northamber	303p	+21p	Bullish trading statement
Dixons Motors	263p	+61p	Bullish AGM
Metal Bulletin	910p	+55p	Hitting the acquisition trail
Symonds Engineering	73p	+12p	Shares return from suspension
Laura Ashley	196p	+39p	Positive reaction to figures

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	5555.71 (+3.97)
S&P Composite	646.83 (+3.22)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	21883.84 (+71.34)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	10818.49 (-90.80)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	546.66 (+3.10)

Sydney:

AO	2265.8 (+9.2)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2536.52 (+1.00)

Singapore:

Straits	2399.33 (+11.41)

Brussels:

General	9053.76 (+18.40)

Paris:

CAC-40	2092.45 (+0.49)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	781.50 (+2.20)

London:

FT 30	2885.2 (+38.1)
FT 100	3857.1 (+36.4)
FT-SE Mid 250	4534.5 (+40.9)
FT-SE-A 350	1945.4 (+18.2)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1655.01 (+5.80)
FT A All-Share	1924.17 (+17.81)
FT Non Financials	2059.14 (+21.2)
FT Fixed Interest	112.04 (+0.16)
FT Govt Secs	92.55 (+0.26)
Bargains	42904
SEAQ Volume	909.3m
USM (Datastrm)	210.73 (+0.09)
US$	1.5173 (+0.0093)
German Mark	2.2858 (+0.0065)
Exchange Index	83.9 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1990
£:SDR	1.0429
RPI	151.5 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	150.9 Mar (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Advent VCT	95	...
British Smaller Co's	95	...
Cambridge Wtr NV	257	+ 8
Cap for Co's VCT (100)	95	...
Cardcast (85)	86	...
Cliveden (73)	86	+ 1
Close Brothers VCT	95	...
Dicom Group (270)	320	...
Easynet Group (100)	*100*	+ 3
FI Group (235)	305	+ 1
Gartmore VCT	96	...
Guinness Flight VCT	95	...
Hill Sml UK Emg Cos	96½	+ ½
Hurlingham Props	80	...
ILP Group (75)	101	+ 11
Orange (205)	234½	+ 1½
Pacific Horizon Wts	17	...
Penine AIM VCT	95	...
Quester VCT	95	...
Raphael Zorn (32)	35	...
Rebus	103	+ 2
Scottish Asian C	101	+ 1¼
Silver Shield (3)	3¼	...
Taverners Trust Uts	518	+ 4

RIGHTS ISSUES

Barratt Dev n/p (200)	80	+ 3
Bemrose n/p (325)	60	...
Cap Reg 675% ULS n/p	5½	...
Estates & Gen n/p (60)	7½	...
Flare n/p (150)	8	...
Guinness Peat n/p (30)	6½	...
Tepnel Life n/p (40)	15	+ 4

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Biocomps Intl	484p (+74p)
Telspec	790p (+80p)
BLP Group	105p (+10p)
Filtronic Com	395p (+36p)
Friendly Hotels	189p (+14p)
Cortecs	383p (+26p)
Sage Group	444p (+24p)
Br Airways	558p (+21p)
Scotia	735p (+26p)
Acorn Comp	233p (+17p)

FALLS:

Cantab Pharms	625p (-43p)
Ranger	490p (-10p)
Next	556p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

Good case for airing

FUND managers are not the City's biggest self-publicists, but after years of silence they seem to want their voices heard. That is a good thing. The tabloid vilification suffered by Mercury Asset Management's fund manager after her decision to back Granada's bid for Forte might have given some pause for thought. But there are good reasons why fund managers should put up with the knocks.

M&G, usually a silent investor that backs its management long term, decided yesterday to go one step further and declare its love for BET in a very public way. Being the largest shareholder, M&G's vote is important, but its 7 per cent is not decisive.

Its decision to publish its reasons suggests that M&G believes the case for the defence has not been properly aired and the fund manager's hearty pat on the back for John Clark is a clear rejection of recent criticism of BET's boss.

BET is typical M&G stock: an underperformer in recovery after new management has taken over. Rentokil, on the other hand, is not. The latter is a highly rated growth share and M&G prefers to seek latent, rather than (over)exposed value. The fund manager believes BET has much more growth in it, and M&G's declaration may encourage other fund managers of a similar view.

There is a hint of something undemocratic about the traditional reluctance of fund managers to debate issues in public. There is no reason why they should be forced to declare their hands, but as guardians of our financial future the public has an interest in knowing why fund managers make their decisions. We need more M&G-style declarations.

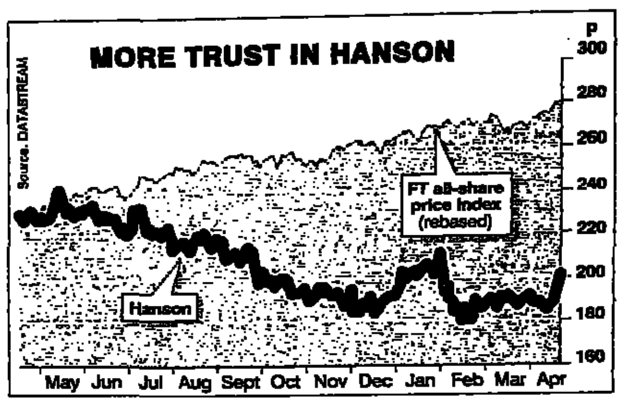
Hanson

THE prospect of Hanson's demise or, to be precise, its disintegration into four, is making analysts' hearts grow fonder. That will be a relief to the management who, having seen the company ridiculed for lack of focus, decided to break up Hanson, only to watch in despair as the share price fell 15 per cent or more.

Three factors seem to be at work in the rerating, the first having more to do with the market bull run than the company. The dreadful performance of Hanson shares since the demerger was announced in January has *been accentuated by the market's* advance and for that reason alone the stock needed a correction.

More important has been some serious attention to break-up valuations. On a conservative basis, the shares could be worth 207p with energy — comprising Eastern, the regional electricity company, and Peabody mining — representing 70p of the total. Chemicals could be worth over 45p. Imperial tobacco 38p and the rump Hanson building materials company over 50p.

The share price is now pushing at the margins of the valuation, but these businesses now need to be seen as independent trading entities. Each have substantial positions in their respective industries and were their shares to trade at less than fair value, bidders would soon take advantage. At current levels, Hanson looks a little cheap.



Millennium

MILLENNIUM and Copthorne has timed its flotation well. The hotel business cycle is entering its third year and such upswings tend to last about seven years. Momentum in the sector is strong, largely because few new properties have opened since the late 1980s.

That will change, of course. As occupancy rates increase, the anticipated investment return on a new hotel improves and developers will haul their cranes out of storage and set them to work.

In the meantime, Millennium and Copthorne Hotels, appears to be a safe bet at the offer price of 278p. Its portfolio is well spread — most of its properties are in London, Paris and New York — and it caters for business travellers whose budgets generate better yields for hotel operators. Furthermore, Transatlantic travel is increasing, creating more demand for beds.

Millennium's biggest challenge is the Plaza hotel, the faded but still glamorous Manhattan landmark last owned by Donald Trump. The company owns 42 per cent of the Plaza and is pumping money into its renovation. If the hotel can be made to earn a decent profit, the shares could have a nice run.

British Airways

A CODE-SHARING deal with the ninth largest US airline is a less impressive arrangement than an alliance with American Airlines, the carrier with which British Airways has been engaged in on-off talks.

American West Airlines offers BA access to a potential 12 million potential passengers compared with American's 60 million but the deal is not to be sneezed at.

BA has commenced a daily service from Gatwick to Phoenix, Arizona, the hub of the American West network which should provide a feed of passengers to BA from the Southwestern United States. That complements BA's existing arrangement with US Air, a predominantly East Coast airline.

Code sharing deals are the airline equivalent of dating and investors should expect such flirtations to give way to more formal alliances or takeovers between airlines. While airline profitability is growing through increased business traffic, the industry is gripped by fear of the next downturn and the probability that weaker carriers will not survive or be reduced to regional status.

The recent decision by the troubled Swissair to cut back on its long haul service is an example of the trend. The expectation that BA will emerge a winner is keeping its share price rising but it is still rated at a hefty discount. That seems ungenerous given the prospect of above-average growth.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	979-978	Jul	1022-1020
Jul	1002-1001	Sep	unq
Sep	1033-1032	Dec	—
Dec	990-998	Mar	—
Mar	996-995		
May	1006-1006		Volume: 13445

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1883-1880	Jan	1830-1810
Jul	1860-1857	Mar	1794-1790
Sep	1850-1847	May	1790-1761
Nov	1838-1834		Volume: 2755

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	324.5-23.0
Spot: 391.0		May	325.5-20.5
Aug	367.5-67.0	Aug	327.5-20.0
Oct	338.5-37.5	Oct	317.5-10.0
Dec	331.5-30.5		Volume 916

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 18

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	108.91	142.71	107.57
(+/-)	+2.80	-39.92	+7.34
Eng/Wales:	108.76	166.01	109.05
(+/-)	+2.65	-29.70	+9.21
(%)	-19.0	-23.0	+11.0
Scotland:	128.14	146.75	104.62
(+/-)	n/c	-31.59	+4.65
(%)		-53.0	+14.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.50	+0.45
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.80	+0.65
Brent 15 day (Jul)	18.05	+0.60
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	21.25	+0.80
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	19.90	+0.50

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 216 (-3)	O: 218 (-3)
Gasoil EEC	185 (-3)	188 (-3)
Non EEC 1% My	174 (-2)	178 (-1)
Non EEC 1% Jn	164 (-1)	166 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	107 (-1)	109 (-1)
Naphtha	197 (+1)	199 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	167.25-67.50	Aug	157.75-58.00
Jun	160.50-60.75	Sep	158.50-59.00
Jul	159.25-58.50		Vol. 16851

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	18.77-18.79	Sep	17.25-17.30
Jul	18.04-18.05	Oct	17.05 BID
Aug	17.57 SLR		Vol: 35088

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	131.65	May	116.00
Jul	133.75	Sep	111.50
Sep	117.15	Nov	113.15
Nov	119.05	Jan	114.65
Jan	121.10	May	115.25
Volume: 1069		Volume: 82	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
May	160.0	161.0
Jun	unq	225.0
Nov	—	105.0
		Volume: 34

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)

May 100.50-101.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 96	1470	1465	1468
May 96	1420	1395	1410
Jun 96	1340	1341	1340
Jul 96	1310	1295	1303

Vol. 185 lots Open interest: 4795

Index 1448 Same

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2614.0-2615.0	2568.0-2569.0	2159975
Lead ($/tonne)	814.00-815.00	806.00-807.00	208575
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1028.0-1028.5	1053.5-1054.0	506570
Tin ($/tonne)	6525.0-6530.0	6535.0-6540.0	25290
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1558.0-1559.0	1592.0-1592.5	933425
Nickel ($/tonne)	7970.0-7980.0	8070.0-8075.0	75648

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Alld Dom.	500	18	29	35½	21½	29½	36½
(*501)	550	5½	13½	18	62	65	69½
Argyll	330	16	22½	27½	16	20½	24
(*333½)	360	5	11	15½	37	40	42½
ASDA	110	8	10	12	4	7	8
(*112)	120	3½	6	8	9½	12½	13½
Boots	600	52	60	67	7½	14	19
(*643½)	650	19½	31	40	29½	35½	41½
Br Airways	550	26	36	44½	20	26	31
(*550)	600	7	15½	23	53	57	60½
BP	550	46	55	62½	7½	12½	16
(*588)	600	15	26½	35	27½	33½	37½
Br Steel	180	21	22½	24	4½	7	10
(*197)	200	8	11	13½	14½	17	20
C & W	500	49	61	69½	12½	17½	23
(*539½)	550	20½	33½	42	32½	40½	45
CU	550	45½	52½	59½	10	16	20½
(*579)	600	18	26	34	31½	43½	45½
ICI	900	54½	68½	86½	19	33½	41
(*923)	950	28½	42½	60½	42½	59	65½
Kingfishr	550	51	63½	78½	8½	15½	21
(*586½)	600	20½	34½	50	29½	36½	42
Land Sec	650	21½	30	36½	21	25	29
(*661½)	700	3½	10½	16½	57½	59	61½
M & S	420	39½	44½	51½	3½	8	11
(*450)	460	12	19	25	19½	24	27½
Nat West	600	51	60½	69½	11	21½	23½
(*631½)	650	22½	35	43½	33	45½	48
Sainsbury	360	12½	19½	24½	15½	19	22
(*362)	390	3	9	13½	36	39½	41½
Shell	850	41½	54½	63	14	22	26
(*868½)	900	16	26½	36½	37½	47	50½
Smkl Bch	687	43	57½	—	17½	27½	—
(*705½)	736	21	34½	—	44½	54	—
Storehse	330	36	43	—	5	9	—
(*359½)	360	16	25	—	16	21	—
Trafalgar	50	1	1	—	1	1	—
(*50)	60	0	0	—	10	10	—
Unilever	1200	55	79½	91	17	25	30
(*1225½)	1250	27	51½	62½	41	46½	52½
Zeneca	1350	77	106	134½	29	58½	67½
(*1366)	1400	51½	80	108	65½	83	91

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	420	36½	46	54	1	9	13
(*453½)	460	10½	21½	32	12	26	30
Ladbroke	180	17	27	30½	3	8½	11½
(*194)	200	7½	17	20½	11½	18	21
Utd Bisc	220	22	29½	33	0½	4	8
(*239½)	240	8½	17½	21½	6	12	16½

	Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
BAA	550	20	30	37	19½	25	29
(*550½)	600	4½	11	17½	55½	58	60½
Thames W	550	35½	42	46½	15	19½	25½
(*575½)	600	10	18	23½	45½	49	54½

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	500	17½	36	42½	0	25	29½
(*507)	550	1½	15	22	43½	56	59½
BTR	300	22	29	33	0½	4	8
(*320)	330	2	10½	16	11½	16	22
Br Aero	850	37	69	80½	9	26	38
(*874½)	900	11	39½	54	34½	50½	61½
Br Telcm	360	21	31	34½	3½	14	18
(*377½)	390	5	14½	18½	16½	30½	34
Cadbury	500	25	41½	50	4½	14½	20½
(*518½)	550	4	18½	26	33	40½	46½
Guinness	460	23	38	44	4	12½	16
(*477½)	500	4½	17	23½	25	31	35½
GEC	360	9½	18	23	6	18½	22
(*361)	390	1	6½	11½	29	39	41½
Hanson	200	5	9½	13	4½	10	14
(*200)	220	1½	3½	6	20	24½	27½
LASMO	180	14	22	26½	4	7	9½
(*189½)	200	4½	12½	16½	14½	16½	19½
Lucas	220	10½	20	26	8	14	19½
(*225)	240	4½	12	17½	20½	25½	31
Pilkingtn	210	11	15½	—	2½	9	—
(*217½)	229	2½	6	—	13	19½	—
Prudential	420	40	52½	59½	0½	6	12½
(*457½)	460	11	27	35½	11½	20	28½
Redland	420	12	22½	30	14½	24	29½
(*425)	460	0½	9	16	48	52	55½
R-Royce	220	22	27½	32½	1	6½	9
(*242)	240	6½	16	21½	7½	14½	17½
Tesco	280	10½	18½	23½	7½	12	17
(*289)	300	2½	10	15	20½	23½	28½
Vodafone	260	12	21½	29	9½	14½	18½
(*260)	280	3½	12½	19½	17	25½	29
Williams	330	21½	23½	26½	3	8½	13½
(*350½)	360	2	7½	11½	20	24½	29½

FT-SE INDEX (*3855½)

	3750	3800	3850	3900	3950	4000
Calls						
Apr	104½	54½	4½	0	0	0
May	124	55	52	27	12	2½
Jun	145	109½	79½	55½	36½	22
Jul	167½	135½	105½	81½	61	43
Dec	-	220	—	168	—	120
Puts						
Apr	0	0	2½	52½	102½	152½
May	13	24½	41½	68½	105½	152½
Jun	35	49	68½	94½	120½	163
Jul	52	70	90	116½	144½	178½
Dec	—	129	—	179½	—	228

	Series	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
Abby Nat	550	44	55	65½	6½	17	22
(*582)	600	16	27½	39½	28	47½	49
Amstrad	180	21½	28	31½	3½	7½	10
(*195)	200	10½	17½	21½	12	15½	19
Barclays	700	57	69	80	6	17½	21½
(*744)	750	24	39	51	23½	39½	43
Blue Circ	360	21	31	37½	10	16½	21
(*369½)	390	7½	16½	23	26½	32½	36½
Br Gas	240	15	19½	23½	9	13	17
(*249½)	260	6	12	15½	21½	24	28
Dixons	500	21	32½	44	18	29	32½
(*500)	550	4½	13½	23	52	60½	62½
Forte	343	35	38	—	0	1	—
(*377½)	373	9	15	—	4½	5	—
Tarmac	120	14	19	22½	3	5½	8½
(*130)	130	7½	13½	16	7	10	13
Hillsdwn	180	7	9½	12½	8½	11	13½
(*184)	200	1	4	5½	25	26	27
Lonrho	180	22½	25½	29	1	4	5
(*199)	210	9	14	17	7½	11½	13
Sears	90	8½	11	12	1½	3½	5
(*98)	100	2	6	7½	6½	8½	10
Thorn	1800	90½	116½	142½	53	85½	99
(*1810½)	1900	41½	76	102	112½	143½	155½
Tomkins	260	14½	19½	24	5	12	14
(*267)	280	5	10	15	16	23	25½
Lloyds TSB	322	18	—	—	9	—	—
(*327)	352	6	—	—	27½	—	—

	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo W	800	44	61½	70½	22½	41	45½
(*810)	850	21½	37½	48	50½	69½	72½
HSBC	950	84	103	119½	22½	34	43½
(*998½)	1000	54	75½	93	42	62	66
Reuter	750	70½	84	101	16	28½	32½
(*794)	800	40	54½	74	36½	48	52½

	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Royal Ins	360	25½	33½	40	13½	21½	24½
(*367)	390	12	20	26½	30½	38	40½

	Series	Jun			Jun		
Fisons	260	5	—	—	0½	—	—
(*265)	280	0½	—	—	18½	—	—

	Series	May			May		
Eastrn Gp	950	29	—	—	0½	—	—
(*975)	1000	0	—	—	25	—	—

	Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Natl Pwr	550	57	62	68	16	27½	26
(*591½)	600	31	37	41	37	46½	49½
Scot Pwr	360	35½	40	42½	3	8	10
(*387)	390	14	21½	25½	13½	21	23

April 19, 1996 Tot: 78902 Call: 56892 Put: 22010 FT-SE Call: 22515 Put: 12053

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 64212	Jun 96	3835.0	3871.0	3834.0	3862.5	15694
	Sep 96	3847.5	3871.0	3847.5	3874.0	211
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 7591	Jun 96				4540.0	0
	Sep 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 358519	Jun 96	93.97	93.97	93.94	93.95	5468
	Sep 96	93.78	93.80	93.77	93.78	6920
	Dec 96	93.40	93.41	93.37	93.38	7767
Three Month Euro Yen	Sep 96				98.91	0
	Dec 96	98.64	98.64	98.62	98.62	475
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1075000	Jun 96	96.85	96.87	96.80	96.82	52480
	Sep 96	96.81	96.84	96.81	96.84	50163
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 121451	Jun 96	105-28	106-07	105-27	106-04	41,997
	Sep 96	105-06	105-06	105-06	105-04	2
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	118.45	118.56	118.45	118.49	2406
	Sep 96	117.41	117.45	117.41	117.41	316
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 196983	Jun 96	96.48	96.95	96.47	96.84	172054
	Sep 96	95.77	95.97	95.77	95.94	158
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 20812	Jun 96	95.68	95.72	95.68	95.70	1560
	Sep 96	95.64	95.72	95.67	95.70	1356
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 54620	Jun 96	98.25	98.26	98.20	98.22	6514
	Sep 96	98.15	98.20	98.13	98.15	3435
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 47427	Jun 96	110.65	111.95	110.75	111.73	51,993
	Sep 96	111.15	111.15	111.15	111.12	15

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6[illegible]

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5[illegible] Low 5[illegible] Week fixed: 5[illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth 5[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth 5[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	6-5[illegible]	6-5[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	6-5[illegible]	6-5[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 6, close 5[illegible].

Local Authority Deps:	5[illegible]	n/a	5[illegible]	6	6[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.32	n/a	5.37	5.43	5.67
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applicts: £5,406m allotted: £1,000m: Bids: £98.555% received: 38%; Last week: £n/a% received: n/a%; Avge rate: £5.7902% last wk £n/a%; Next week: £1,000m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-2[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3[illegible]	4[illegible]-3[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	1[illegible]-1[illegible]	1[illegible]-1[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: **Open** $390.70-391.00 **Close:** $390.30-390.80 **High:** $390.70-391.00
Low: $388.00-388.50 **AM:** $389.90 **PM:** $390.90

Krugerrand: $390.00-393.00 (£256.75-258.75)

Platinum: $400.00 (£263.25) **Silver:** $5.28 (£3.475) **Palladium:** $135.25 (£89.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5467-2.5571	2.5551-2.5578	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	46.800-47.013	46.931-47.013	12-9pr	35-29pr
Copenhagen	8.7924-8.8196	8.8130-8.8196	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	0.9658-0.9669	0.9670-0.9684	9-6pr	24-19pr
Frankfurt	2.2790-2.2861	2.2841-2.2861	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	232.91-234.75	234.49-234.74	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	190.00-190.44	190.19-190.43	23-32ds	63-80ds
Milan	2375.1-2382.6	2378.7-2381.36	70-85ds	19-22ds
Montreal	2.0646-2.0762	2.0666-2.0683	0.22-0.14pr	0.41-0.30pr
New York	1.5170-1.5208	1.5173-1.5180	0.08-0.06pr	0.21-0.18pr
Oslo	9.8318-9.8621	9.8462-9.8621	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	7.7347-7.7570	7.7504-7.7570	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	10.150-10.175	10.155-10.175	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Tokyo	162.00-162.43	162.25-162.43	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	16.027-16.080	16.064-16.080	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	1.8465-1.8562	1.8538-1.8562	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2773-1.2781
Austria	10.57-10.58
Belgium (Com)	30.89-30.90
Canada	1.3614-1.3619
Denmark	5.7995-5.8015
France	5.1055-5.1065
Germany	1.5034-1.5038
Hong Kong	7.7343-7.7353
Ireland	1.5675-1.5690
Italy	1566.50-1567.50
Japan	106.92-106.96
Malaysia	2.4950-2.4960
Netherlands	1.6815-1.6820
Norway	6.4855-6.4893
Portugal	154.35-154.45
Singapore	1.4075-1.4080
Spain	125.32-125.42
Sweden	6.6990-6.7074
Switzerland	1.2198-1.2208

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5170-1.5196
Australia dollar	1.9362-1.9400
Bahrain dinar	0.5655-0.5775
Brazil real*	1.4830-1.4877
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7000-0.7100
Finland markka	7.1100-7.2250
Greece drachma	362.0-369.0
Hong Kong dollar	11.7314-11.7399
India rupee	51.48-52.44
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4495-0.4595
Malaysia ringgit	3.7844-3.7862
New Zealand dollar	2.2120-2.2190
Pakistan rupee	52.48 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.4600-5.5000
Singapore dollar	2.1340-2.1369
S Africa rand (com)	6.4040-6.5060
U A E dirham	5.5075-5.6315

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	591	Land Secs	3,000
ASDA Gp	9,300	Legal & Gn	3,700
Abbey Ntl	3,100	Lloyds TSB	14,000
Allied Dom	1,600	Marks Spr	11,000
Argos	356	NatWst Bk	4,100
Argyll Gp	3,600	Nat Grid	3,700
AB Foods	992	Nat Power	7,700
BAA	2,200	P & O	2,600
BAT Inds	6,800	Pearson	1,000
BOC	2,100	Pilkington	3,300
BP	7,600	PowerGen	1,500
BSkyB	2,600	Prudential	6,700
BTR	11,000	REXAM	1,300
BT	9,300	RMC	781
Bk of Scot	2,300	RTZ	3,000
Barclays	3,900	Rank Org	3,500
Bass	2,800	Reckitt Col	939
Blue Circle	2,000	Redland	652
Boots	1,200	Reed Intl	2,100
BAe	1,500	Rentokil	9,400
BA	5,400	Reuters	6,400
Brit Gas	21,000	Rolls Royce	9,100
Brit Steel	6,200	Royal Ins	2,300
Burmah Cstl	648	Ryl Bk Scot	3,700
Burton	5,000	Sainsbury	8,500
Cable Wire	6,000	Schroders	267
Cadbury	4,100	Scot & New	2,800
Carlton Cms	4,600	Scot Power	6,300
Cm Union	2,000	Svrn Trent	435
Cookson	1,700	Shell Trans	7,300
Courtaulds	1,200	Siebe	1,000
Dixons	1,300	SmKl Bch	10,000
Enterpr Oil	5,900	Smith Nph	2,600
For & Col IT	*1,300*	*Smiths Inds*	*494*
GKN	726	Sthern Elec	1,600
GRE	4,600	Std Chartd	1,200
GUS	2,000	Sun Allnce	1,700
Gen Acc	1,700	TI Gp	1,200
Gen Elec	11,000	Tate & Lyle	900
Glaxo Well	7,800	Tesco	7,600
Granada	2,100	Thames W	330
Grand Met	6,200	Thrn EMI	1,000
Greenalls	411	Tomkins	4,100
Guinness	4,400	Unilever	3,500
HSBC	2,300	United Utls	3,200
Hanson	25,000	Vodafone	7,800
ICI	1,200	Whitbread	2,000
Kingfisher	3,900	Wlms Hld	2,200
LASMO	8,200	Wolseley	890
Ladbroke	7,300	Zeneca	1,500

WALL STREET

	Apr 19 midday	Apr 18 close
AMP Inc	42¾	43
AMR Corp	91	91¾
ASA	44½	45¾
AT & T	61½	60¾
Abbott Labs	41½	41
Advanced Micro	17¼	17¼
Aetna Life	70¾	70¾
Ahmanson (HF)	23	23¼
Air Prod & Chem	58	58¾
AirTouch Comm	28¾	28¾
Alberto-Culver B	38	37¾
Albertson's	37	36¾
Alcan Alumnm	32¾	32
Alco Standard	53¼	53¾
Allied Signal	56¾	57¼
Alum Co of Am	64¾	64¼
Amax Gold Inc	6	6¼
Amerada Hess	58	57¼
Amer Brands	42½	42¼
Amer El Power	40¾	40¾
Amer Express	47¾	47
Amer Genl Corp	35¼	35
Amer Home Pr	110¼	110¼
Amer Intl	92¾	92¾
Amer Stores	33	33¾
Amer Standard	27¼	27¼
Ameritech	57¾	57¼
Amoco	71¾	71¼
Anheuser-Busch	66	66
Apple Computer	25	24¾
Archer Daniels	19¼	19¼
Armco	5¾	5¾
Armstrong Wrld	55	54¼
Asarco	35	35¼
Ashland Oil	40¼	40
Atl Richfield	116¼	115¾
Auto Data Pro	37¾	38¾
Avery Dennison	55¾	55¼
Avon Products	88¾	87¼
Baker Hughes	29¾	29
Baltim Gas & El	26½	26¾
Banc One	34¼	34¼
BankAmerica	76¼	76¼
Bank of NY	48	47¾
Bankers Tr NY	69¾	70¼
Barnett Banks	62¾	61¾
Bausch & Lomb	36¾	39¼
Baxter Intl	44¼	44
Becton Dicknsn	81¾	80¾
Bell Atlantic	63¼	62¾
Bell Industries	21¼	21¼
BellSouth	39¼	39
Black & Decker	36¼	38¼
Block (H&R)	39	38¾
Boeing	85¾	85¼
Boise Cascade	44¼	45¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	81¼	82
Browning Ferris	30¾	30¾
Brunswick	22¼	21¾
Burlington Nthn	84¼	84¼
CMS Energy Corp	29	28¾
CNA Financial	97¾	96
CPC Intl	67¼	66¾
CSX	47¾	48
Campbell Soup	59¼	59
Can Pacific	20	20
Carolina Pwr	35¼	35¼
Caterpillar	65¼	65¼
Central & SW	27¼	27¼
Champion Intl	48¼	49¼
Chase Manhat	68¼	68¾
Chevron Corp	55¾	55¾
Chrysler	61¼	62¾
Chubb Corp	92¼	91¼
Cigna Corp	103¾	101¼
Citicorp	77¾	77
Clorox	87¾	87¾
Coastal Corp	40¼	39
Coca Cola	79¼	79¼
Colgate-Palmolive	76¼	77
Columbia Gas	46¼	48
Columbia/HCA	53¾	52¼
Compaq Comp	41¼	40¾
Comp Ass Intl	71	69¼
ConAgra	41¼	41
Conrail	71	69¾
Cons Edison	29¼	29¾
Cons Nat Gas	45¼	45¼
Cooper Inds	39¼	39
Corestates	39¾	39¾
Corning Inc	33¼	33¾
Crown Cork	44¼	44¼
Dana Corp	33	32¾
Dayton Hudson	95¾	95¼
Deere	40¼	40¾
Delta Air Lines	80¾	81¼
Deluxe Corp	31	31
Digital Equip	53¼	53¼
Dillard Dept St	36¼	36¾
Disney (Walt)	62¾	62¼
Dominion Res	38	37¾
Donnelley (RR)	36¼	36¾
Dover Corp	45¾	46¼
Dow Chemical	84¾	86¼
Dow Jones	37¾	36¾
Dresser	31¼	30¾
Duke Power	48¼	48¼
Dun & Bradstreet	61¾	60¾
Du Pont	83¾	83¾
Eastman Chem	66¾	66¾

	Apr 19 midday	Apr 18 close
Eastman Kodak	75¼	74¼
Eaton Corp	60	60
Edison Intl	15¾	15¾
Emerson Elec	79¼	78¾
Engelhard Corp	23¾	23¾
Enron Corp	38¾	38¾
Entergy	26¼	26¾
Ethyl Corp	10¼	10¼
Exxon	82¼	81¼
FMC Corp	69¾	68¾
FPL Group	42¼	42¼
Federal Express	76¼	76
Fed Nat Mtge	31	31¼
First Bk Sys	60	59¾
First Union Rlty	7¼	7¼
Fleet Finl Grp	42¼	42¼
Fluor Corp	64¼	64¾
Ford Motor	35¼	35¼
GTE Corp	42¼	42¼
Gannett	65¼	65¼
Gap Inc Del	28	28¼
Gen Dynamics	61¼	61¼
Gen Electric	77¾	79¼
Gen Mills	54¾	55
Gen Motors	56¾	57
Gen Reinsurance	144¾	143¼
Gen Signal	36¼	37
Genuine Parts	44¼	44
Georgia Pac	73¼	73¼
Gillette	54	52
Glaxo Welc ADR	24¾	24¼
Goodrich (BF)	40¼	39¾
Goodyear Tire	50¾	51
Grace (W&R)	81¼	80¼
Gt Atl Pac Tea	24¾	24¾
Great Wstn Fin	22¾	23
Halliburton	55¼	55¾
Harcourt General	43¾	43¼
Heinz (HJ)	33¾	32¾
Hercules	62¼	61¾
Hershey Foods	73¼	72¾
Hewlett Packard	100¼	100
Hilton Hotels	103¾	102¼
Home Depot	46¼	46¼
Homestake Mng	19¼	19¼
Honeywell	52	52
Household Intl	64¼	68¼
Houston Inds	21¾	21¼
Humana	24¼	24¾
ITT Corp	60¾	61
Illinois Tool	67¼	66¼
Illinova	25¾	25¾
INCO	33	33¼
Ingersoll Rand	38¾	38¾
Inland Steel	25¼	25¼
Intel Corp	65¾	65¾
IBM	107¼	105¾
Intl Flav & Fr	47¼	47¼
Intl Paper	40¼	40¾
James River Va	26¼	26¼
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	91¼	91¼
Kellogg	71	70¾
Kerr-McGee	65¼	65¼
Kimberly-Clark	70¾	70¾
Kmart	10	9¾
Knight-Ridder	70¾	68
Lilly (Eli)	60¾	58¾
Limited Inc	18¾	18¾
Lincoln Nat	49¼	48¾
Litton	44	43¼
Liz Claiborne	36¼	35¼
Lockheed Martin	74¼	74¼
Louisiana Pac	23¾	23¼
MCI Comm	29¾	28¾
Marriott Int	49¼	49¼
Marsh & McLnn	91¼	91¼
Masco Corp	28	27¾
May Dept St	47¾	48¼
Maytag Corp	20¾	20
McDonalds	46¼	46¾
McDonnell D	92¼	90¾
McGraw Hill	89¼	87¼
Mead Corp	55¾	55¾
Medtronic	51¼	52¼
Mellon Bk	54¼	53¾
Melville Corp	40	39¾
Merck Inc	61¼	61¼
Merrill Lynch	59¼	59¼
Microsoft	111¼	109
Minnesota Mine	64¾	64¾
Mobil Corp	114¼	112¼
Monsanto	146¾	145¼
Morgan (JP)	81	81
Motorola Inc	59¼	59¾
Natl Semi	15¼	14¼
Natl Service Ind	37¼	37¼
Navistar Int	10¼	10¼
NY Times A	32¼	31¼
Newmont Mng	55¾	54¾
Niag Mohawk	8¼	8¼
Nike B	86¾	90¼
NL Industries	14	14
Noram Energy	10¼	10¼
Nordstrom	45¼	45¼
Norfolk Sthrn	81¼	81¼
Nthn State Pwr	47¼	47¼
Norwest Corp	36¼	36
Nynex Corp	52¾	52¾
Occidental Pet	25¼	26¾
Ohio Edison	21	20¾

	Apr 19 midday	Apr 18 close
Oracle	32¾	31¾
Oryx Energy Co	15¼	15¼
Overseas Ship	18¾	18¾
Owens Corning	39¾	39¾
PHH Corp	55¾	55¾
PPG Industries	51¼	49¾
PNC Bank	30¾	30¾
PP&L Res	22¾	22¾
Paccar Inc	48¾	48¾
Pacificorp	19¾	19¾
Pac Enterprises	25¼	25¼
Pac Gas & Elect	22¾	22¾
Pac Telesis	33¼	33¾
Pall Corp	27¼	27¼
Parker Hannifin	40¼	39¼
Penn Energy	24¼	24¼
Penney (JC)	48¼	49¼
Pennzoil	41¼	40¼
Pepsico	61	61¼
Pfizer	70	68¾
Pharm & Upjhn	39¼	38¾
Phelps Dodge	73¼	73¼
Philip Morris	89	89¼
Phillips Pet	39¾	39
Pitney Bowes	48¾	48
Polaroid	45	43¼
PriceCostco	18¼	18¼
Procter & Gmbl	84¾	84¼
Providian	44¼	44¼
Pub Serv E & G	28¼	28¼
Quaker Oats	32¼	32¼
Ralston Purina	63¾	61¼
Raychem Corp	73¼	73¼
Raytheon	49¼	50
Reebok Intl	29¾	29¾
Reynolds Metals	56	57
Rockwell Intl	56¼	56¼
Rohm & Haas	69¾	68¾
Royal Dutch	143¾	142
Rubbermaid	28¾	28¾
SBC Comms	49¾	49¼
Safeco Corp	32¾	33¼
St Paul's Cos	54¼	53¼
Salomon Inc	39¼	39
Sara Lee Corp	31¼	30¾
Schering Plough	58¾	58¾
Schlumberger	83¼	81¾
Seagram	32¼	32¼
Sears Roebuck	52¼	51¾
Shell Trans	80¾	80¾
Sherwin Wilms	44¼	43¼
Skyline Corp	24¼	24¼
Snap-On-Tools	47¼	47
Southern Co	22¾	22
Sprint Corp	39¼	38¾
Stanley Works	61¼	60¾
Sun Company	30	29¾
Sun Microsys	50	50¾
Suntrust	70¾	69¾
Supervalu	32	31¾
Sysco Corp	31¾	32
TRW Inc	92	91¾
TOC Inds	25	25
Tandem Comp	10¾	10¾
Tandy Corp	50¾	49¾
Teledyne	36¾	37
Temple Inland	48¼	48¼
Tenneco	54¾	54¾
Texaco	84¾	84¾
Texas Inst	56¾	55¾
Texas Utilities	39¾	39¾
Textron	87¾	87¾
Time Warner	40¾	40¾
Times-Mirror A	30	30¾
Timken	43¼	44
Torchmark	42¼	42
Toys R Us	26¾	26¾
Transamerica	75¼	75¼
Travelers	60¾	60¾
Tribune	70¾	66¼
Tyco Labs	38¾	39¼
UST Inc	30¼	30¼
UAL	218	222
US Inds	21¼	21¼
USX Marathon	20¼	20
Unicom	27¼	27¼
Unilever NV	139¼	137¾
Union Camp	52¼	52
Union Carbide	46¾	46¾
Union Pacific	70	70¼
Unisys Corp	6¾	6¾
USAIR Group	18¼	18¼
USF&G Corp	15¼	15¼
US Life	29¼	29¼
United Tech	111	110
Unocal Corp	32¼	32¼
VF Corp	54¼	54¼
WMX Tech	34¼	34¼
Wal-Mart Stores	22¼	22¼
Warner-Lambert	111¼	111¼
Wells Fargo	257¾	250¾
Westinghouse El	19	18¾
Weyerhaeuser	49¼	48
Whirlpool	57¼	57¾
Whitman	24¼	24
Winn Dixie	32¼	32¼
Woolworth	18	18
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	55¾	55¾
Xerox	134¼	133¼
Yellow Corp	12¼	12¼

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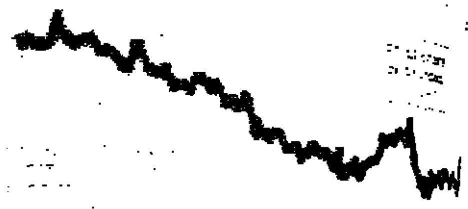
THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20

TEMPUS

case for airing

MORE TRUST IN HANSON



POOR RETURNS 33

In search of a safe house for savers

WEEKEND MONEY

MATHS CLASS 32

Do your sums on school fees add up?

Are you on the right track?

Marianne Curphey considers the £1.8bn sale of Railtrack

Is it going to be the sale of the century or a privatisation dogged by risk and regulatory interference? Barring a last-minute disaster, the great Railtrack sell-off looks set to be oversubscribed when applications close next month. Smaller investors are being tempted by estimates of a total yield of between 14 and 20 per cent, while the City has watched Railtrack's price tag drop from £2 billion to around £1.8 billion because of political uncertainty and now believes the share offer will be fairly priced.

Institutional investors running index-tracking funds will have to hold Railtrack shares in their portfolio, which will push up demand for stock when it is first floated.

Publicly, institutions are talking down the deal, hoping to drive the offer price down even further before flotation. Railtrack will go on a series of roadshows next week in an attempt to convince the City that it has the assets and the management skills necessary to pull off the deal.

Few in the Square Mile are willing to make predictions about the stock's performance in the long term, but most agree that it looks a good short-term bet.

Audrey Lowrie, a director on HSBC's UK equities desk, said: "The dividend yield is very attractive for small investors, particularly in the first year."

She believes that there could also be an opportunity for stagging — selling shares on the first day of trading to take advantage of pent-up demand.

Stags made thousands of pounds in 24 hours when the first tranche of British Telecom shares were floated in 1985. When Orange was floated last month, it joined the FT-SE 100 index very quickly and was in demand from institutions for their index-tracking funds. Stags made up to 35p per share in the first day.

Undeterred by the political row, more than 900,000 people have registered with the 10,000 Share Shops in Britain for the Railtrack issue.

In an attempt to guard against the flotation becoming a public relations disaster, the Government is giving small investors a better deal than the large institutions, and at least a third of all shares will go to individuals.

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE

There is always a risk in tracking any privatised company, and Railtrack has more than its fair share of politically driven uncertainties

THE RISKS

How likely is it that if Labour wins the next election, it will try to renationalise the organisation? Analysts believe that because the Government is selling off all of its stake in the organisation — instead of retaining 49 per cent of shares as it did in previous sell-offs such as electricity — Tony Blair will be unwilling and unlikely to attempt to buy back the whole of Railtrack. Such a measure would be a difficult, time-consuming and costly exercise which would alienate small shareholders and large institutional investors in the City.

Instead, Labour is far more likely to tighten the powers of the regulator and introduce restrictive rules on contracts and charges which could stunt Railtrack's earnings capacity. Labour gives warning in a three-page policy statement in the Railtrack pathfinder prospectus that it is concerned at the high-track access charges that Railtrack is allowed to levy in order to guarantee a high return to shareholders. Labour has pledged to review these charges if it is returned to government at the general election.

THE REWARDS

Payment for Railtrack shares will be in two instalments over 13 months, each in a different tax year, and the return on fully-paid shares is expected to be between 6 and 7 per cent — slightly above the yield on privatised utilities. The first instalment for investors in the UK public offer is 190p per share. Since individual investors do not have to pay for their shares in full until June 1997, if returns in the first year average around 7 per cent, they will receive the equivalent of a 14 per cent return. A total final dividend for the financial year 1995-96 will be paid on October 4 this year to all shareholders on the register at a specified date, which is likely to be September this year.

Railtrack proposes that this will be equivalent to about £69 million. For the second instalment, those who subscribe through Share Shops for the public offer will be offered the choice of a discount worth up to £120 or a bonus of one free share for every 15 bought. These incentives could be worth a further 4 to 6 per cent, making a potential total return of around 20 per cent, though this is by no means guaranteed.

HOW TO DEAL

The minimum investment in the UK public offer — for individuals only — will be 200 shares. With the first instalment costing 190p a share, the minimum payment will be £380. Under a separate offer, institutional investors will pay more per share. The exact price will not be announced until May 1.

The second instalment is payable on June 3, 1997, and will be the same for both the UK public offer and the international offer. Investors will have a better idea of the cost when the full prospectus is published on May 1.

Individuals can also apply for the retail tender, which is on the same terms as the international offer, does not qualify for discounts, has a minimum investment of £3,000 for the first instalment and is for people who want to buy large share allocations.

Share Shops will not charge a fee for investors applying for Railtrack shares, because they are paid a fee by the Government. However, there are varying charges when you come to sell your stock.

The Share Centre (0800 800008) is currently offering a "family" deal, whereby applications for shares from the same address are bundled together and can be sold for a single fee. The selling commission is 1 per cent, with a minimum charge of £7.50. Investors can also put their shares into a Pep. Barclays also offers this deal by post for a fee of 1 per cent, with a £7.50 minimum. City Deal (01708 742288) will charge a flat fee of £5 for dealing in Railtrack shares up to a value of £3,000, and £15 thereafter. This offer also applies to buying and selling shares in Eurotunnel and Stagecoach.

THE ADVICE

Stockbrokers and financial advisers are divided over the merits of the offer. Phillip Epsley, at Albert E Sharp, the stockbroker, says there are unanswered questions over the fate of the company's debt and how much the Government intends to subsidise Railtrack with public funds.

"The projections are very difficult at this stage as to the profit the company is going to make, but there is massive scope for cost-cutting," he said.

Mark Bolland, an independent financial adviser with Chamberlain de Broe, said: "The 14 per cent yield, if it materialises, is very good. Few investments, except perhaps foreign government bonds, come close to bettering that. Railtrack is a huge landowner and its property interests should provide a good yield. However, you are still buying into open-ended liability. Labour say the fabric of the network is too valuable to leave in private hands and although they will not renationalise it, they could make it very unattractive."

Matthew Orr, of Killik & Co, says the dividends look attractive on the partly paid shares.

He said: "In the long term, Railtrack could expand its retail development at stations and create large shopping centres at railway stations, as BAA did with airports.

"Political uncertainty is holding back the price but even a 7 per cent yield is better than building society deposit rates currently available. However, if you have never invested in equities before, this share issue is not necessarily the right one for you. It is more suitable for someone who already has a large, well-balanced portfolio."

Just when we had it figured . . .

Investors were yet again treated to a display of the unpredictability of markets this week when the London stock market refused to be battered by potentially devastating news and instead concentrated on the good (*Karen Zagor writes*).

The week started on a strong note as London responded to a record close on Wall Street. Investors looking to reinvest their personal equity plans put money into London, which helped to lift the FT-SE 100 to 3,790.5, a gain of 23.7 points.

Tuesday saw the FT-SE 100 close at a record 3,825.3, helped by an enthusiastic response to news that National Power, Britain's biggest power generator, had been put into play. Its shares climbed 31½p to 521½p, and the partly paid shares gained 30p to 387p in frenzied trading amid rumours that the company was the target of a bid from Southern, an American utility.

Wednesday was gloomy, with depressing economic news taking the wind out of the market's sails. Unemployment had fallen more sharply than expected, while average earnings had risen, putting an end to speculation that interest rates might fall further. That was compounded when it emerged that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had considered raising rates at their last monthly economic meeting. Yet the FT-SE 100 responded by losing just 19.7 points on the day, barely a blip on the scale of stock market losses. One bright spot was National Power, which jumped a further 56½p to 578p on confirmation of the takeover bid by Southern.

On Thursday, the FT-SE 100 retraced most of its previous day's losses, reflecting a surprise half-point cut in German interest rates and ignoring a substantial drop on Wall Street. By Friday afternoon, the FT-SE 100 ended the week having set another record (see page 28).

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Having a say at the AGM

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Back in 1962, the Jenkins committee on company law recommended, among much else, that a shareholder's appointed proxy should be able to speak at a company meeting, as well as cast the vote. A third of a century later, the Department of Trade and Industry is still agonising over this breathtaking innovation. *Shareholder Communications at the Annual General Meeting*, its new consultation paper, still implies this might be a step too far.

Can this be the same department that is gaily blowing up the gas industry, in the hope that the pieces might fall back in a theoretically better pattern? The difference is that details of company law are usually left to officials who perennially give great weight to any possible risk of reform. Anything goes when change has a political or bureaucratic priority. Whitehall caution has much to commend it, but there are limits.

Company meetings have decayed so far from their formal function of making directors accountable to shareholders that most companies think them an expensive waste of time. Fund managers boycott them. Most private investors do not bother because they know their voice rarely counts. Paul Myners' DTI-sponsored City/Industry working group was tempted to suggest abolishing compulsory AGMs. It stepped back, in favour of reform, perhaps only because of the inevitable political charge that small shareholders would be gagged.

The proxy issue has arisen anew because even funds now often hold shares via nominee custodians. They have suggested an alternative change to allow them to exercise their rights. This problem should be dealt with by a specific new rule, but all minor measures to help investors overcome nominee problems should be tried. Unlike the gas revolution, they can always be reversed.

The paper's main theme, reflecting a select committee report that spawned it, is to make it easier for shareholders to put down resolutions at company meetings and to ask questions that will get answers. There are cost issues here. If companies have to circulate resolutions at common expense, as they should, it costs a lot if they are too late to go out with the annual report. But that rules out resolutions stemming from the report. Perhaps these could be handled in advance-notice questions.

Compromises have to be made. Directors and officials worry more that rules friendlier to shareholders will be exploited by the special interest groups that disrupt annual meetings of many multinationals and high-profile companies.

This conflict cannot be ducked. Any democratic improvements for shareholders are bound to be exploited by troublemakers who have little interest in returns to investors. By the same immutable law, any restrictions imposed to curb the vexatious will be exploited by arrogant company boards to stifle the real voice of shareholders.

Risks are worth taking here too. The textbook vision of shareholder democracy has long vanished. The vast majority of shares are controlled by faceless corporate funds. Active private shareholders will use nominee accounts. Most of them will give up non-financial rights, faced with a choice between exercising them or saving money, unless companies offer tangible benefits.

If company boards are to be more accountable, it will be via some unalluring form of representative democracy, in which individuals use pressure groups to influence the votes of institutional shareholders. Investors will need to make sure these pressure groups reflect their views, not just the latest agitprop political correctness.

By this means, however, we might again allow boards to reflect the morals of their shareholders, not just the amorality of the economic man. At first, though, investor power would doubtless focus on the mean-spirited issue of directors' pay. Yet it might not be a bad idea if dozens of companies were confronted with identical resolutions asking that top pay be limited to, say, 25 times the lowest on the payroll — and fund managers had to explain if they opposed this humble request.

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Investment Trust Management

Karen Zagor on making the most of money in matrimony

FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL/POLYGRAM FILM INTERNATIONAL

If you get tongue-tied over your financial affairs, there's no need to be nervous. Help is at hand from independent advisers who urge newlyweds to list their pre-nuptial money arrangements

With all my worldly goods

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, boldly proclaimed in the last Budget: "It is a myth that the tax system penalises marriage and that single people are better off than married couples. Any young couple contemplating living together and starting a family will pay less tax by getting married."

Advisers at Fiona Price & Partners would beg to differ. Eileen Dougherty, a tax manager, says: "The advantages of marriage nowadays in tax terms are geared towards relatively wealthy people. They are not much use to ordinary working people on average salaries with an average mortgage and a family to support."

There was a time when couples who got married in the waning days of the tax year were able to collect two full years' worth of the married couple's allowance. The recent surge in summer and autumn weddings may be a result of less generous tax laws. There are no longer any tax advantages to getting married in the spring, while the married couple's allowance has been whittled back to almost nothing.

James Higgins of Chamberlain De Broe, the independent financial adviser, urges couples to concentrate on the "until death (or divorce) do us part" element of the union. "Financial planning needs to be done on a regular basis so that the couple know exactly where they are in terms of assets and debts. Many marriages end in divorce simply because the couple's finances have got out of hand and the couple find themselves heavily in debt. At the same time, flexibility needs to be maintained because anything that is in a sole name can result in difficulty in access for the surving partner if one dies."

Fiona Price & Partners suggests that newlyweds start out by listing their existing financial arrangements, as pensions, savings, investments, insurance policies and any debts. From there, you can decide what your financial priorities are and how to go forward. And remember to tell parents and grandparents that they can give you up to £5,000 and £2,500, respectively, free of tax.

PENSIONS

FIONA PRICE says this is one of the few areas where being married has a financial advantage. If your spouse is in a company pension scheme, you will almost certainly be entitled to a widow or widower's pension if your partner dies. This privilege is not always extended to unmarried partners. James Higgins suggests considering writing death benefits of pensions in trust, or at least nominating your spouse as a beneficiary so that any death benefits are paid quickly. If there is no trust or nomination of death benefit, there may be a delay in the survivor receiving benefits while the estate is in probate.

Only net relevant earnings can be used to fund a pension. There are tax benefits for pension contributions, so if a couple can afford to fund only one pension, it usually makes sense to fund one for the higher rate taxpayer.

PROPERTY

IF both partners already own separate properties, they should each be able to continue to claim Mortgage Interest Relief At Source (Miras), provided one of the properties is sold within 12 months of vacating. If one of the properties is let, you will be able to claim the mortgage interest as an expense.

You cannot keep two properties as your main residence indefinitely. Unless you sell one of the properties within three years, you will have to pay Capital Gains Tax on the sale. A main residence is exempt from this liability.

If you buy a home together, you will need to decide whether to opt for being joint owners or beneficial joint tenants. In the case of joint owners, the home becomes the survivor's property if one partner dies. As tenants in common, each spouse owns half the home and can leave it to anyone they choose in a will. This can be useful in inheritance tax planning, but also has its pitfalls. If you plan to leave the house outright to your partner, it is easiest to have the home jointly owned. Otherwise, in the event of death, the survivor must go through probate to get the house transferred.

ALLOWANCES AND TAX

MARRIED couples are entitled to tax relief of only £268 a year, or 15 per cent of the £1.790 allowance for the 1996/97 tax year. The allowance can be split between the couple or used by either husband or wife, depending on who has the higher earnings. Each spouse is entitled to their own personal allowance of £3.768, which is not transferable at present. The Downing Street policy unit has said it is considering making personal allowances transferable between married couples.

JOINT ACCOUNTS

JOINT bank accounts are a mixed blessing for married couples. Their prime advantage is that they make day-to-day bill paying infinitely easier. But there are certain dangers. Couples are jointly liable for debts and overdrafts, which can be an issue if you are married to a profligate spender. Also, if one partner is self-employed or has a blighted credit history, the couple may find it difficult to get a mortgage. A solution is to have a joint account for bills, and to maintain separate accounts to benefit from one partner's more solid credit record. The main problem with single accounts is that spouses cannot get information about the accounts and, in the event of death, funds in your spouse's account will be frozen until probate is finished.

INVESTMENTS

SINCE the advent of independent taxation, couples have been able to take advantage of their separate status. Tax on savings and investment income is usually paid at the highest rate, so a higher-rate taxpayer will pay 40 per cent. Fiona Price estimates that a 40 per cent taxpayer can save £7,570 a year on transferred assets of £27,825.

All dividends and interest from gilts and deposits should be paid to the partner with the lowest marginal tax rate. If one spouse is a non-taxpayer, savings income can be paid gross after filling out a R85 form from a bank or building society. With capital gains tax, transfers can be made between spouses at any time without tax liabilty. This is useful if one partner is close to exhausting their CGT allowance for the year, currently £6,300. Ms Dougherty notes that most people do not reach their individual CGT limit for the year, but that men with company shares through executive share option schemes do benefit by transferrring the shares to their wife's name using her CGT limits as well as her lower tax rate, provided she is the lower earner. Frances Hughes, head of family law at Bates, Wells & Braithwaite advises women to have their own investments. "Women tend to buy the food and pay for the holidays and extras while men have the savings."

LIFE ASSURANCE

LIFE Assurance is a necessary evil if the death of one partner would cause financial hardship for the other. Couples should take into account their debts and family needs. A couple with no debt, no children and no mortgage may not need insurance. Younger couples might consider joint lives first death cover. It is also worth exploring insurance on a guaranteed insurability basis, which allows you to get cover if you suffer a heart attack or some other event that might make you uninsurable. To choose a policy, get quotes for single life, joint life first death and family income benefit, which is useful for families with young children. If the cost difference is not substantial between two single life and one joint life policy, it is worth considering the single policies which will pay on the death of each partner, providing more cover.

WILLS

AGAIN, being married is an advantage. Spouses do not have to pay inheritance tax when their partner dies, and everything that is held in joint names will pass directly to the survivor. You can also write a will stating that your spouse will inherit everything. Without a will, however, a spouse with no children will only be entitled to the personal chattels, plus a cash sum of £125,000 and a half share of any residue.

Wills are also essential for people with families. They are the only way to determine where the assets will go. Wills allow you to appoint guardians for children. It is relatively inexpensive to have a will drawn up, and can save years of heartache later.

Wills do need to be reviewed regularly as wishes and circumstances will almost inevitably change.

The first vital financial steps if marriage starts to fail

Karen Zagor on how to take the unnecessary pain out of a divorce settlement

This week the Duke and Duchess of York joined about half of the married population by filing for divorce. Like thousands of other separating couples, the Yorks must begin the long process of untangling their joint finances and reaching an acceptable settlement. Financially, divorce is remarkably similar to marriage. In both instances, couples must look at their pensions, savings, investments, insurance policies and wills.

Frances Hughes, head of family law at solicitors Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, says: "There can be great disadvantages to applying for decree absolute before you have sorted the finances." Once divorced you will not, for example, be entitled to a widow or widower's pension and could be left in dire straits unless provisions were made before the divorce was granted.

If your marriage breaks down, your first financial step should be to close all joint accounts before your partner has a chance to embark on a spending spree. Similarly, joint credit cards, loans, overdrafts and HP agreements should be separated where possible.

If you are not a joint owner or tenant of the family home, Ms Hughes suggests putting a charge on the home without necessarily telling your partner. She says: "You are entitled to register your right to occupy at any time. This is a basic protection step which will prevent the home being remortgaged or transferred without your knowledge."

The Duchess: settlement

Ms Hughes notes that the courts take a dim view of people who try to hide assets from their partner during divorce proceedings. "The courts' view is that the status quo should be maintained during proceedings. If you think your partner may trying to dissipate assets, you should see a solicitor immediately. You can get an order for assets not to leave the jurisdiction and if they already have, you can still have the assets frozen."

It may well pay to get independent financial advice before accepting a financial settlement. Given the acrimonious nature of many divorces, it is more important than ever to make sure that your best interests are being considered. If you will be relying on maintenance payments to survive, it is a good idea to consider taking out an insurance policy to protect payments in the event that your ex becomes ill, or dies.

Married women have, traditionally, left themselves vulnerable by relying on their husband's pension. Women in England and Wales may want to wait until July 1 to file for divorce. From then, pension payments will have to be split on retirement and there is pressure on the Government to further amend the rules to split pension rights at the time of divorce. In Scotland, pensions are already included in divorce settlements.

Legal bills can mount quickly during a divorce. You will be charged for every letter and telephone call. One solution is to contact the Solicitors' Family Law Association which will put you in touch with a lawyer whose aim is to diffuse anger and to keep the legal bills in check.

Next year's new laws should end the quickie divorce by ensuring couples are only granted a divorce after a year. It is hoped that during this waiting period the battling spouses will have a chance to cool down, untangle their finances and to avoid expensive courtroom battles over children and possessions, perhaps with the help of mediation. "It is a very good idea to have counselling in tandem," says Ms Hughes. "This encourages people to come to sensible decisions along the way. Some people are forced through circumstances into proceedings before they are emotionally ready. Where possible, you should wait to file for divorce until you are ready and can make more rational decisions which cost you less money."

Divorce is also an important time to consider your will. Your circumstances and desires will almost certainly have changed, and you may want to make provision for your ex, if you part on amicable terms.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 19

The first vital financial steps if marriage starts to fail

Karen Zagor on how to take
pain out
settlement

هذا من الأصل

Side-effects of the Robinson affair

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Making the word "carpetbagger" one of the catchphrases of 1996 will not be the only legacy of Peter Robinson, the late, but seemingly not-much-lamented, chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society. His controversial exit from the society, amid allegations of expense abuses, may mean that Woolwich members get a better price for their society.

Suddenly, the Woolwich has become a takeover target, with groups such as BAT, the tobacco company, Midland and Prudential possibly interested in intervening in the flotation process. The Woolwich has 500 branches and an instantly recognisable brand, the slogan "We're with the Woolwich" having become part of the language a decade before Mr Robinson made his contribution to the argot of the age.

A few Australian and European banks may also be keen, although they were hoping for a cheaper way into the high streets of Britain. For the Woolwich would be an expensive buy. A bidder would probably have to offer as much as £4 billion, £1 billion more than the society's estimated flotation value.

This would increase by a about a quarter the average payout for the society's members, the all-important stakeholders. However, the rules mean that the payments would not be in shares, but in cash, an alternative that some, perhaps with reason, might find less attractive. Since its 1989 change of status, Abbey National shares have more than quadrupled. In whatever shape the windfall comes, this week's Woolwich annual meeting showed that savers and borrowers want only to know how much. There was no sentimentality about the ending of mutuality.

This is a point that should bring a pause for thought at other societies ceaselessly waxing lyrical about the institution's traditions and values.

Besides possibly improving the deal for Woolwich members, another unplanned effect of Mr Robinson's abrupt career change has been to improve the terms for savers at other societies bound for the stock market.

To thwart the carpetbaggers who had moved into the society for a quick gain, Mr Robinson ruled that those who did not have £100 invested at December 31, 1995, could not benefit. The angry reaction from long-standing customers whose accounts were below the limit has made other societies nervous about imposing such deadlines. Indeed, Bristol & West savers without the necessary £100 can be sure of a share in the Bank of Ireland loot, provided they top up their accounts by the end of the year. Alliance & Leicester savers also have a stay of grace. The Robinson affair truly has wide reverberations.

No more delays

WE learn this week that something is now being done to speed up the process of compensation for those sold unsuitable personal pensions. Seldom have the words "not before time" been more appropriate.

The numbers themselves tell the story. A million or more people were encouraged to leave, or never join, company schemes for inferior personal pensions. More than a third of these are priority cases. To date, however, compensation has been offered to just 7,000 individuals. To remedy this, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) is at last warning of "serious" disciplinary crackdowns on the life insurance companies and financial advisers who are dragging their feet.

The PIA should now be as good as its word, carrying out its previous threat to force offenders to take out full-page advertisements setting out their deficiencies. The body should also use all other powers at its disposal.

There is another worrying aspect to this affair. Thousands are probably still unaware that the pensions they were encouraged to buy are sub-standard products. What *is the PIA doing to reach these people?*

Sarah Jones sees hope for mis-sold pension victims

PIA to get tough at last

STUART HARRISON

Fighting on: Jacqueline Melville with sons Tom, 6, and Alec

There is a glimmer of hope for the millions of victims of pension mis-selling. It appears that watchdogs can bite, as well as bark. This week the Personal Investment Authority, protector of the private investor, admitted there have been serious delays in the review of personal pension mis-selling. It warned life assurance companies and independent financial advisers dragging their feet that they would be disciplined or even closed down.

This indicates a change of tune by the PIA, which took no action last year against companies that missed the first deadline, to identify priority cases. "No more Mr Nice Guy is a message that we welcome. It's long overdue," said Philip Telford of the Consumers' Association. "However we are still waiting for proof that the regulators are making up for lost time as promised."

The scandal of huge numbers of people being wrongly advised to leave, or not join, company pension schemes in favour of personal pensions came to light three years ago. Nine million personal pensions were sold between 1988, when the Government made membership of a company scheme voluntary, and 1994. How many pensions were mis-sold is not known. But few pensioners have been compensated.

Priority cases, including retired or deceased pensioners and opted-out pensioners aged over 35 and still in the same employment, should have been identified by last December. Another deadline approaches: non-joiners over 35 years old and opted-out pensioners under 35 years old, both in the same employment, should be identified by June.

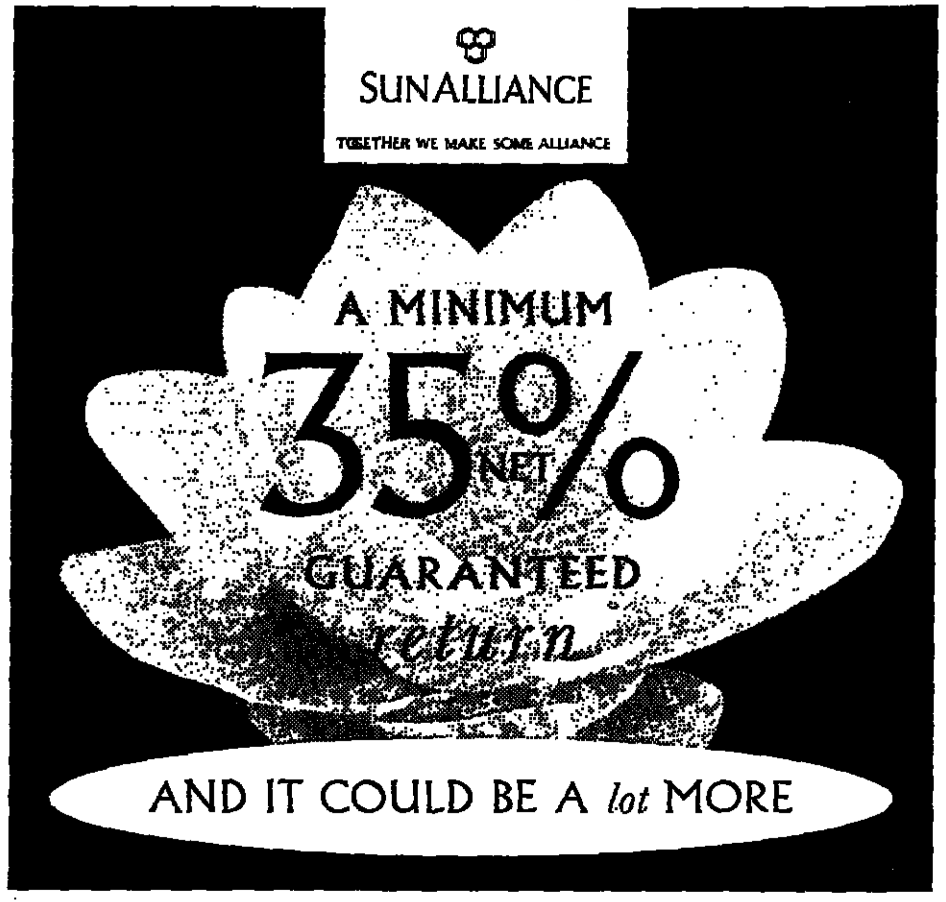
The PIA said this week that a million cases of mis-selling have been identified and of those, 392,000 are priorities. In just 7,000 cases, redress has been offered, though not necessarily received.

Anyone who thinks they may have received wrong advice between 1988 and 1994 should first contact the company or adviser who sold the pension or telephone the PIA helpline on 0171 417 7001.

■ Jacqueline Melville is awaiting compensation after being wrongly advised to transfer from the police pension scheme. After contributing for 11 years, she went to an independent financial adviser when she was expecting her first child. "The adviser said the police scheme could not be bettered for my husband, as a man, but was not suitable for me, as a woman," said Mrs Melville, aged 36.

So she started a personal pension plan with M&G. Two years later she found the new plan did not cover her if she retired through ill-health or accident, so she rejoined the old one. "Two years later I had to retire because of chronic asthma. If I had still been with M&G I would have got nothing," she said.

Having been out of the old scheme for two years, her lump sum and pension have been greatly reduced. Cameron Law & Co, which wrongly advised her, has been struck off and dissolved so the Investors Compensation Scheme is processing her claim.



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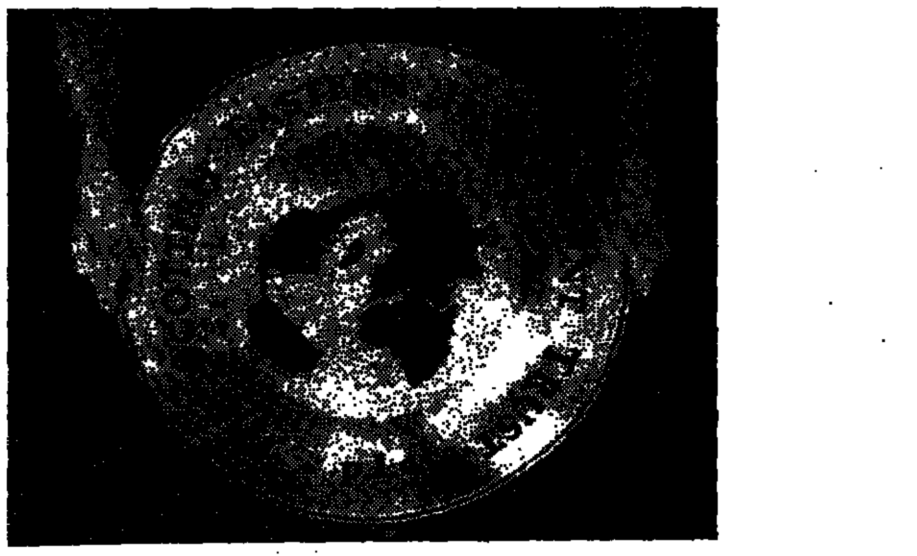

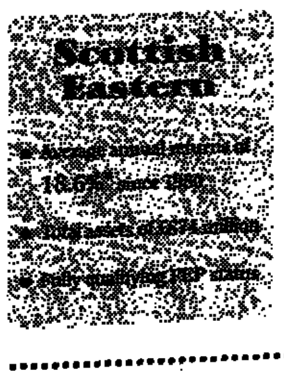

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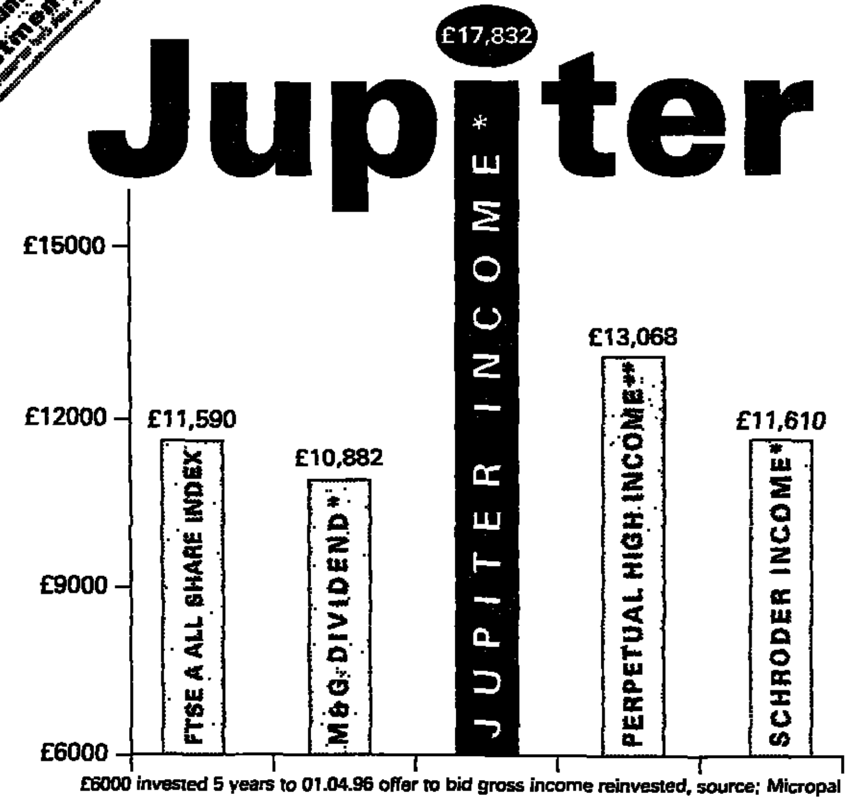

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Parents must make sure school fee sums add up

HULTON

Not everyone has to pay school fees but the Revenue's decision to tax educational trusts will bring hardship to those who do

THOUSANDS of parents will have to find alternative ways of saving for their children's education after the Inland Revenue's announcement that it is to tax educational trusts. The move will add substantially to the costs of private education in an environment where school fees are already increasing at a rate far above inflation. Many financial advisers will assume annual rises of 10 per cent when planning for private education. They believe that those budgeting for seven years of educational fees, for example, should count on spending at least £100,000 per child. It is also becoming more common for parents to consider saving to help their children through further education. The cutbacks in student grants have made it necessary for parents to give their offspring extra financial help for college or university.

According to school fees specialists, it is never too early to start saving or planning for education. Personal equity plans (Peps), tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas), unit trust savings plans, investment trusts, in particular, zero dividend preference shares, can all be used, as well as educational trusts to build up a fund for private education.

Educational trusts have become far less attractive after the move by the Charity Commission to remove their charitable status from the beginning of next month. The Revenue has ruled that this means trusts can no longer distribute their income tax-free.

For some parents this will mean finding around 8 per cent more for their children's education. Alternative funding depends on whether lump sums are used, or whether savings are made out of regular income. Financial advisers point out that in reality many people will be unable to meet all their school fees planning needs from savings and investments alone.

Fiona Price, of Fiona Price & Partners, said: "It is unlikely that savings will be able to pay for all school fees. When it comes to the time, usually extra funding from capital or income is needed.

☐ **Personal equity plans.** Peps allow up to £9,000 a year to be invested — £6,000 in an ordinary Pep and £3,000 in a single company plan. Any capital gains are tax free, as is any income. Peps are recommended for those who want to save regularly. Because they are vulnerable to stock market movements. Peps are only suitable for those who have at least five years to save.

Jonathan Gumpel, financial planning director at Brooks Macdonald Gayer, said: "Peps are really long term. Two Pep funds, one for the husband and one for the wife can be used. Taking a long term view means that you do not have to be so worried about volatility."

☐ **Tessas.** These plans can also provide a way of saving for school fees. Interest on the accounts is paid free of tax, and if savers opt for a fixed rate account, it is possible to predict exactly what the maturity value will be in five years' time. For example, £9,000 invested today in Bank of Ireland's 7.25 per cent fixed rate Tessa will pay out £12,890 in five years' time.

☐ **Unit trust savings plans.** It is possible to save as little as £50 a month in a unit trust savings plan. Financial advisers recommend choosing trusts which have high growth potential.

☐ **Zero dividend preference shares.** Many split-capital investment trusts offer the choice of investment in zero dividend preference shares. These shares will mature at a certain price at a set date. It is possible to invest in zeros which will mature on the dates when the school fees are needed. Mr Gumpel said: "The advantage of zero dividend shares is that they escape income tax." He recommends the shares of trusts from Ivory & Sime. Zeros are suitable for those with lump sums.

☐ **Educational trusts.** These are trusts which, until the recent ruling, were deemed to be charities. They did not have to pay income tax on distributions. However, from April 1997, income will become taxable.

Educational trusts are offered by the School Fees Insurance Agency, Equitable Life and Sun Life. Financial advisers say that educational trusts are a throwback to when there were far fewer tax-efficient investments available.

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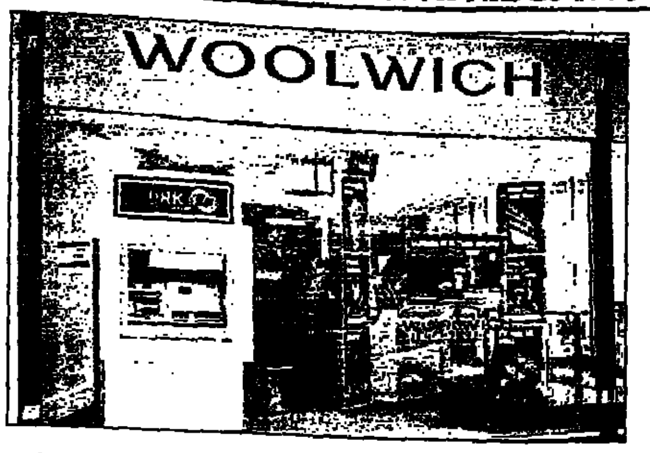

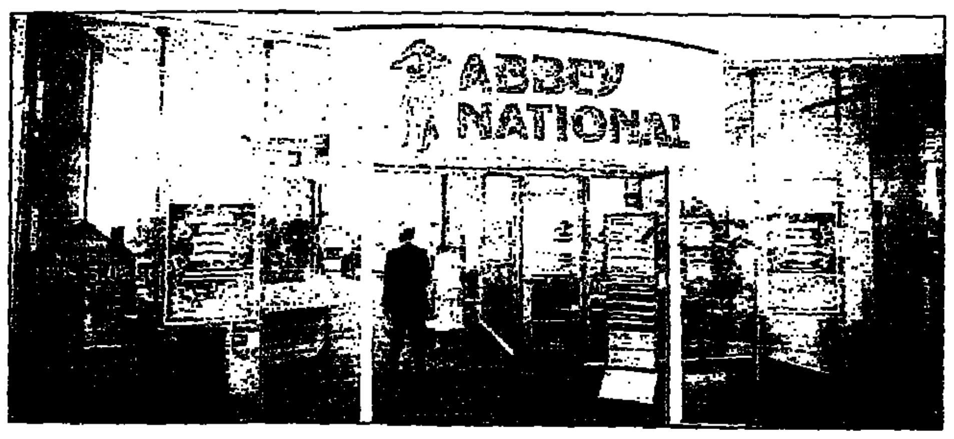

Is there a safe house for savers?

Sarah Jones considers the harsh climate in which savings rates have wilted

Building societies are under the illusion that interest rates are like onions: they can peel away layer after layer. But it is investors who are left weeping as savings rates reach rock bottom, wiping out any benefit from the reduction in savings tax. With the latest parings, savers' rates have reached a 50-year low. A middle-band instant-access account currently pays 2.36 per cent net. That, according to Abbey National data, represents the lowest rates since the 1940s. Rates stood at 2.5 per cent net in 1941-45 and at 2.25 net in 1946-52. Mortgage rates are currently at a 30-year low.

This week, the Woolwich announced an immediate cut on the interest rates paid on its Prime Gold, Tessa and current accounts. The changes vary from tier to tier but, across the board, the average cut is 0.2 per cent. The hardest hit are those with balances of more than £50,000 and Tessa account holders who face cuts of 0.30 and 0.35 per cent. Accounts that are no longer available to new investors, such as the Woolwich Investment Bond and the Premium Investment, Prime and Capital accounts, have also been cut.

A spokeswoman at the Woolwich said: "This follows from the last month's reduction in base rate. We are simply behind the pack on this particular change."

The move comes hot on the heels of the Halifax's decision to cut the rates on all its main savings accounts. The reduction means that the lowest gross rate for its instant Liquid Gold account, for balances up to £500, slumps below 1 per cent to 0.75 per cent. For balances of more than £50,000, the Solid Gold gross monthly rate drops to 4.75 from 4.98 per cent. Even the Children's Account has not been spared, with a drop from 3.40 to 3.10 per cent.

The National & Provincial also this week reduced the interest rate on its six variable savings accounts by 0.25 per cent.

The Nationwide admits that its mortgage rate cut of 0.25 per cent from next month will have to be matched by a similar drop in savers' rates. That would bring the rate on its instant Cashbuilder account on a £5,000 balance down to 3.15 per cent. The society points out that against the trend it increased rates by 0.25 per cent in February. True, but a month earlier its rates had gone down by 0.5 per cent.

This month, the amount of tax automatically deducted from building society and bank accounts has fallen to 20 per cent for lower and basic-rate taxpayers. For building societies, that seemed the perfect time to cut savers' rates.

A spokeswoman for the Halifax said: "Our latest change coincides with the new tax rates to make it easier for customers, since it avoids confusion. It also saves money since we don't have to publish two lots of rates."

The latest round of cuts has severely dented, and in some cases wiped out, any benefit from the tax reduction. Take a Halifax Liquid Gold account with a balance of £5,000. At last month's higher interest and tax rates, net annual interest was £120; with the new lower interest and tax rates this month, it is £116. The seven million Liquid Gold accountholders are even worse off if you take the interest rates at last November's Budget, when the new savings tax rate was announced. Then the net annual interest on the same account was £144.

Mark Bolland, of Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial adviser, said: "Investors who rely on interest rates for their income are getting well and truly stuffed, though the societies would argue that they had to drop the interest rates anyway — so at least customers are not as badly off as they would have been under the higher tax rate.

"Savers are now in the worst possible world. They are sitting on low interest rates but it's too late to diversify. If you buy into equities and gilts now you will be going in at the top of the market and will suffer accordingly when interest rates rise again."

All savers can do is look around for the best rates. But even the better-paying postal accounts are taking a knock. This week saw a 0.25 per cent reduction on the Chelsea Building Society's postal Classic Account, following a general reduction in the society's investment rates earlier in the month.

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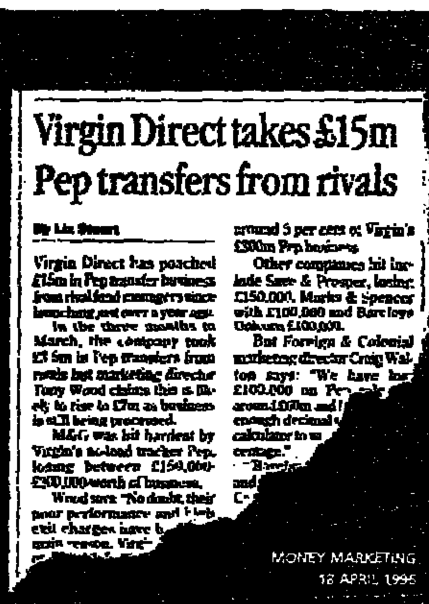

Virgin Direct takes £15m Pep transfers from rivals

Virgin Direct has poached £15m in Pep transfer business from rival fund managers since launching just over a year ago.

In the three months to March, the company took £7.5m in Pep transfers from rivals but marketing director Tony Wood claims this is likely to rise to £7m as business is still being processed.

M&G was hit hardest by Virgin's no-load tracker Pep, losing between £150,000-£200,000 worth of business.

around 5 per cent of Virgin's £300m Pep business.

Other companies hit include Save & Prosper, losing £150,000, Marks & Spencer with £100,000 and Barclays Unicorn £100,000.

MONEY MARKETING
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†At 15th January 1996, a £1000 investment in the Global Advantage PEP at launch in September 1990 would be worth £1974.92, and the same amount invested in the Income Advantage PEP at launch in January 1992 would be worth £1636.92. Average building society £2500+ account would have returned £1366.75 and £1199.75 respectively. Source Micropal. Unlike a bank or building society account, where your capital is secure, a PEP is invested in a unit trust and the value of units can go down as well as up and as a result there is no guarantee that your initial investment will be returned. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Tax relief may be altered and the value to the investor depends upon their financial circumstances.

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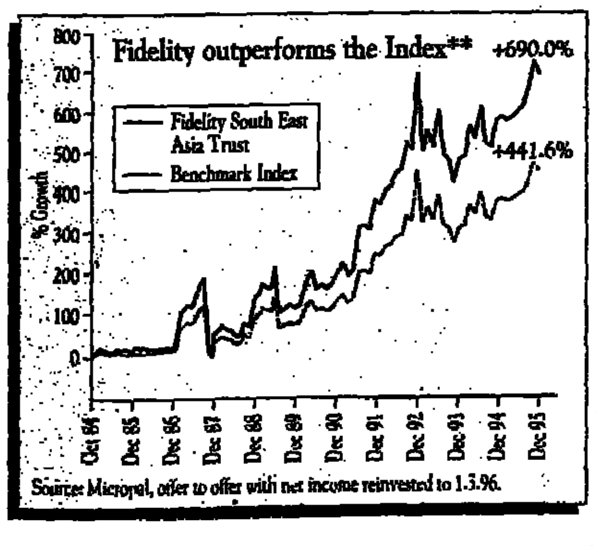
"Fidelity contributed four out of the top six fund managers in this year's survey, with KC Lee being voted top fund manager by the region's brokers."††



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If you wish to keep it mutual, act early

Mrs Pell has advice for dissenters, but concedes chances of victory are slim

ALAN WELLER

Savers who object to plans by their building society or life company to demutualise were warned this week that they need to act immediately if they are to have any chance of changing the board's policy.

Increasing numbers of mutual organisations have admitted that they are looking at the possibility of becoming public companies or accepting outside bids.

One organisation, which trades in second-hand life policies, has even drawn up a "hit-list" of candidates it believes are most likely to be taken over within the next year. They include Scottish Amicable, Scottish Life, MGM Assurance, NPI, Guardian, and London & Manchester.

For policyholders and society members who are not convinced by offers of cash, shares or bonuses in return for surrendering their membership rights, timing is crucial, according to Marian Pell, a specialist in insurance law.

Mrs Pell, a senior partner with Herbert Smith, solicitors, says most policyholders do not move early enough in their attempt to overturn a board's decision. By the time they turn up to the extraordinary meeting to vote against the motion, it is usually too late.

"Historically, policyholders have failed to overturn the board's decision because they are not well enough organised," she said.

"Unlike shareholders in plc meetings, there is no block vote and it is an uphill battle for policyholders to assemble enough votes to force through an amendment. In addition, if the board is forced to drop its plans with no suitable alternative, it leaves the organisation in a vulnerable position and its business may have been damaged by the episode." She says that policyholders who feel unhappy about the proposals could in theory go to a third party and suggest it bids for their organisation as soon as the demutualisation is made public. In practice, she acknowledges it is very difficult for individual policyholders to involve themselves in such negotiations.

Over the past two years plans by building societies and life companies to demutualise have left behind them a trail of disgruntled policyholders. When Lloyds Bank took over the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society, borrowers and savers of less than two years' standing and savers whose name was second on the account lost out.

Thousands of savers with the Woolwich whose balances were less than £100 at the qualifying date are angry that they will miss out on payments, while Girobank savers will be excluded from the windfall to be paid out to Alliance & Leicester members when the society converts to a bank. Clerical Medical, the life insurer, had planned to exclude 30,000 savers whose life policies were due to mature before the end of the year, but had a change of heart after *The Times* drew attention to the unfairness of the decision.

Ultimately, Mrs Pell says, unhappy savers could take their case to the High Court, where demutualisation schemes of life companies have to be sanctioned.

When Provident Mutual was taken over by General Accident, two dissenters complained to the judge. No such action has ever succeeded.

Mrs Pell says that although building societies and life companies are entitled to say they are committed to mutuality, they are also obliged to consider every serious offer that comes along. It is the duty of directors to act in the best interests of the organisation.

One Woolwich saver who is trying to take action early is David Adams, 51, an associate director of Amec, the construction company. He withdrew £750 from his account just before the qualifying date, leaving him with a balance of less than £100 and disqualifying him from any bonus to be paid out when the society converted to a bank. He believes his loyalty should be rewarded and is to hold a meeting in Oxford on May 11 for all disgruntled savers.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Undecided Top 20 decide to tighten up

As bid speculation focuses increasingly on the medium-sized building societies, more have raised their minimum investment levels to discourage new customers (Anne Ashworth writes). But it may not have the desired effect, as Birmingham Midshires found this week.

On Monday, it raised its minimum to £1,500 in its 17 city-centre branches, and to £500 elsewhere. But customers continued to crowd in.

The Chelsea followed suit, closing three share accounts. Two of these, Capital Account and Instant Option, will be be relaunched as share accounts with a minimum of £2,500. Three other share accounts remain open but the entry cost is steep: Bonus Bond (minimum £5,000), 120-Day Account (£5,000) and Monthly Income Shares (£5,000).

The Lambeth, the 30th-ranked society, now has just one share account open to new investors (minimum £2,500).

Listed here are minimum investment on share accounts at the top 20 societies which remain (apparently) wedded to mutuality.

Nationwide	£500
Bradford & Bingley	£500
Britannia	£500[1]
Yorkshire	£100
Birm'ham Midshires	£1,500[2]
Portman	£100
Coventry	£100
Skipton	£2,500
Leeds & Holbeck	£1,000
Chelsea	£2,500
Derbyshire	£1,000[3]
Cheshire	£2,500[4]
Norwich & Peterborough	£2,500[5]
West Bromwich	£2,500

[1] Special mutuality scheme, see also Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley, Yorkshire, Coventry.
[2] City centre, £500 elsewhere
[3] Outside Midlands branch area, £100 within area
[4] Outside North West (under review). £100 within area
[5] £500 in society's operating area.

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PORTFOLIO

Who benefits in the great building society lottery

Anne Ashworth

explains the winners and losers in the race to strip away mutuality

In a mood rivalling the excitement of National Lottery rollover week, the shrinking of the building society sector continued apace with the Bank of Ireland's £600 million bid for Bristol & West, the ninth largest society.

This move means that anyone fortunate enough to have been a member of the six societies becoming banks or succumbing to bids would now be looking at winnings of roughly £6,000. The latest takeover leaves only the Nationwide, the Bradford & Bingley, the Britannia and the Yorkshire of the ten biggest societies resolved (or so they say) to retain mutual status. The rest are either becoming banks or being taken over.

In all cases, borrowers benefit, but only savers in share accounts with voting rights join the fun. Deposit accounts are excluded.

The Halifax

The background: The first flotation deal to be announced, and something of a yardstick for the rest. A £10 billion share debut is planned for mid-1997, after a spring vote.
Average estimated payout: £700.
Beneficiaries: Ten million members of the merged Halifax and Leeds societies.
The payout: Qualifying investing and borrowing members with balances of at least £100 at November 25, 1994, will receive a basic distribution of Halifax shares. They must maintain the £100 balance until conversion. Qualifying investing members of two years' standing on the conversion date (yet to be set) with balances of £1,000-£50,000 will receive the variable distribution based on their balance. The number of extra shares will be calculated by reference to the lowest total balance on the account at midnight on two reference dates. The first is November 25, 1994. The other date will be announced in advance to allow investors to replenish their accounts. They can withdraw cash in the interim but they must maintain a balance of at least £100.
Helpline 0800 888844.

The Woolwich

The background: Despite the sudden exit of Peter Robinson, chief executive, the society still plans a £3 billion flotation next autumn. However, another bidder could intervene. Potential aggressors include BAT, Midland, Prudential, Royal Bank of Scotland or a European or Australian bank. This could improve the payouts. If the original schemes goes ahead, anyone who did not have £100 invested last December 31 will be excluded — a decision that has upset thousands of investors who had transferred cash into cheque accounts, allowing their share accounts to fall below £100. These cheque accounts do not carry voting rights. Aggrieved investors have formed an action group (see page 34).
Average estimated payout: £1,000.
Beneficiaries: Four million.
The payout: There will be a basic distribution to all members with the society at December 31, 1995, and who remain until conversion. There will also be an additional variable distribution for certain investors based on their balance at December 31, 1995, and at another date to be announced retrospectively.
Helpline 0345 022033.

Alliance & Leicester

The background: The owner of Girobank intends to become a public company by next spring. Girobank customers will not share in the largesse as they are not members of the society. This has caused irritation. Peter White, chief executive, says details will be available when the deal is approved by the Building Societies Commission.
Average payout: £800.
Beneficiaries: Three million.
The payout: Free shares will be distributed to borrowing and saving members at December 31, 1995, who remain until conversion. In a significant concession, savers who did not have the all-important £100 invested can replenish accounts. But they must act at least 56 days before the voting date, expected in the autumn.
Helpline: 0345 221144.

National & Provincial

The background: N&P members will receive their loot from Abbey National's £1.3 billion takeover of their society in September.
Beneficiaries: 1.4 million.
Average payout: £1,000.
The payout: Borrowers and savers at April 28, 1995, and December 31, 1995, will get £500 of free Abbey shares (basic distribution). Those on the books at December 31, 1993, get £750 (cash or shares) and 7 per cent of the lower of their account balances at April 23, 1995, and at midnight, August 4, 1996, up to £50,000 (variable distribution).
Helpline: 0345 697349.

Bristol & West

The background: Bristol & West will become the Bank of Ireland's specialist savings and mortgage division. Members who were on the books at April 15, 1996, will benefit.
Average payout: £1,000.
Beneficiaries: 1.1 million.
The payout: Savers at December 31, 1994 (with £100 or more by April 15, 1996) will get at least a fixed £500 in cash, plus a variable distribution related to balances up to £10,000. Those with less than £100 on April 15 can top up their accounts by December 31 but will only qualify for a fixed sum of at least £250. The 60,000 savers who hurriedly joined since January, and other newcomers, will get only the basic £250 B&W preference shares.
Helpline: 0800 886633.

Northern Rock

The background: A £50 balance on April 2 will allow you to benefit from the £1 billion flotation. Conversion is expected in the autumn. But the account must be topped up to £100 by the end of this year.
Beneficiaries: 1.3 million.
Average payout: £700-£1,000.
The payout: A flat distribution of shares seems likely. Qualifying borrowers must have £1 in mortgage debt on April 2 and December 31, 1996, and at the date of conversion. Qualifying savers must have had £50 at April 2, 1996, and £100 on December 31, 1996, and have £1 balance at conversion.
Helpline: 0345 448866.

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1. All you have to do to take part in the Challenge is register your golf day using the form (right) - then on the day itself, submit the results.
2. Simply send off the completed form, together with the registration fee of £150 plus VAT as soon as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 15th September 1996. *
3. The top four scoring golfers in your golf day's individual Stableford competition - including up to three guests (your option) - will become eligible to represent your company (as a team) at one of the twelve regional finals in October this year.
4. Your team of four will, if their aggregate Stableford score is among the top 25 aggregate scores in your region, qualify for a regional final.
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* Golf days registered after 15th September or played after 27th September will be entered for the 1997 Challenge.

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- Your golf day results featured in The Times 'golf day results' column.
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- Complimentary copies of the event newsletter on your golf day.
- A golf day management software program for use on your golf day.
- Complimentary copy of the Official event magazine -The Business Golfer.
- A chance for your company golf day winners to qualify as a team to play in a Regional Final.
- The opportunity, should they win the Regional Final, to play in the National Final, to be held in November 1996, at The Hyatt La Manga Club in Spain and filmed for a Sky TV broadcast.
- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in the World Corporate Golf Challenge.
- Other promotional opportunities for the golf day organiser.

Rules and Regulations

The competition is approved by the R&A for payment of expenses- "[illegible]"
A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of the registration form; or you may obtain a copy or further information by contacting the Challenge organisers on:-

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0141 221 2225 (Scotland)
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Address
County
on ... (date) and will be attended by approximately ... golfers.
[illegible]

2

Trophy Requirements
The trophies for your four qualifiers will be sent to you for presentation on your golf day. Unless you state otherwise, your company name as spelt out in section 1 above will be inserted as will the date and name of the golf club. If you require an abbreviation of your company name or indeed another name altogether
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3

I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £176.25 inc VAT, made payable to The Times MeesPierson C.G.C. Please send the completed form to The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4 Harpenden Hertfordshire AL5 3DL. A VAT invoice will be sent with acknowledgement.

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Hold it, dear... it isn't burying its head. The small print warns that it may not have one
GED

Small print

From Mr S. Kitchiner

Sir. Further to your comment on ostrich schemes. I would like to share with you the principle that guides me when I make my investment decisions.

I am only a working-class pensioner, so I have to be very wary how I look after what little savings I have. As soon as I see an asterisk in an advertisement, I never read any further. I already know that the information small print below which they do not want us to see will show that the investment is not such a good deal after all.

Yours faithfully,
STUART KITCHINER,
45 Station Road,
Flitwick,
Bedford.

A different line

From Mr B. Crawford

Sir. I have just asked Direct Line for a mortgage quote for a house in Northern Ireland, only to be told that it quotes only for England, Scotland and Wales. Ireland, North and South, is classified as the same by them, and is considered different from the rest of the UK. Perhaps we could get Direct Line to take over the Department of Agriculture and award Northern Ireland separate status from the rest of the UK, therefore allowing the export of our beef to mainland Europe and beyond, or perhaps Direct Line does not consider the citizens of Northern Ireland to be British.

Yours faithfully,
BARNEY CRAWFORD,
17 Saul Road, Downpatrick.

Not a charitable word for building societies

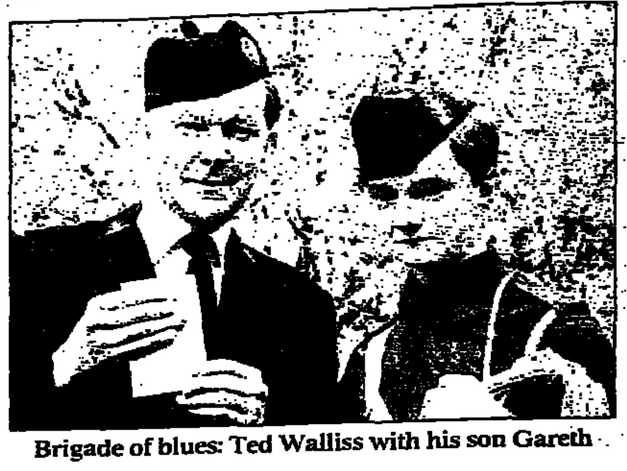
From Mr T. Walliss

Sir. I continue to read in your pages, with interest and some sympathy, correspondence from individuals missing out on bonuses resulting from building society takeovers, flotations, etc. I have not read lately, I think, from anyone representing a charity. I cite one small situation in which I am involved.

I run a building society account on behalf of a Boys' Brigade unit. So far, it has attracted no bonus from the takeover of the Southdown by the Leeds, the amalgamation of the Leeds with the Halifax, and shortly from the flotation of the Northern Rock. Just exactly what is the difference between our money and that of others? A director of one of the societies mentioned told me not to complain as "you do get your interest tax-free".

Floreat, florebit!

Yours faithfully,
TED WALLISS,
3 Claremount Gardens,
Epsom Downs, Surrey.



Brigade of blues: Ted Walliss with his son Gareth

Check the guarantee on your corporate bond Pep

Karen Zagor on suppositions by older investors seeking solid returns

How good is the guarantee on your corporate bond Pep? That is a question that few investors ask, but that financial advisers feel is important when choosing a place to put your money.

Charles Levett-Scrivener, of advisers Towry Law, notes that older people, interested in making provision for themselves and their partner, tend to be attracted to guaranteed products. These people assume that any investments will pass on to their spouse, should they die during the term of the product. Yet in many cases the guarantee on a corporate bond Pep dies with the original holder.

Mr Levett-Scrivener says: "There are legal problems with keeping guarantees after death, yet there is no warning in the literature that when you die the guarantee lapses."

After pressure for clarification from Towry Law, Sun Alliance has now said that it will be possible for a beneficiary to receive a guarantee on its high income bond trust. The bond promises initial tax-free income of about 7 per cent a year, plus the guarantee of the full return of capital and guarantee premium at the end of six years. Minimum investment is £3,000 with a guarantee premium of £150.

Sun Alliance has said it will issue a new capital protection insurance certificate to beneficiaries, on request, to apply to the original unit. This will guarantee the additional payment on the sixth anniversary of the original investment. The conditions will be the same as the original investment.

Beneficiaries should note that any payment under the insurance to the unit-holder is likely to be a disposal for capital gains tax purposes. In addition, the capital protection insurance will cease immediately if the new unitholder dies or transfers all, or some, of the units to another person before the sixth aniversary of the original investment. In contrast, Mr Levett-Scrivener notes that Marks & Spencer does not make provision to transfer the guarantee on its Guaranteed Capital Investment Plan.

Mr Levett-Scrivener says investors should make sure the guarantee is worth paying for before buying a guaranteed product. With a capital growth plan, the charges for protection may not be worthwhile because over five years the stock market is likely to move higher. Similarly, if a guarantee on a capital growth product lapses on death, it is probably not worth worrying about. But guarantees on income products are important.

An intriguing new Pep from HSBC Asset Management is being launched. The fund will be set up as a traded company, thus meeting the requirements of a single company Pep. But the company's shares will reflect the movements of the FT-SE. Investors will get the security of a diversified investment, while using their maximum single and general Pep allowance of £9,000. The HSBC Pep Plus is a growth fund which promises full return of capital if the market falls. If it rises, investors will benefit from the growth in the FT-SE 100, plus a 33 per cent bonus of the growth achieved.

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Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation may change. Tax reliefs referred to are those currently available and their value depends on the circumstances of the individual investor.

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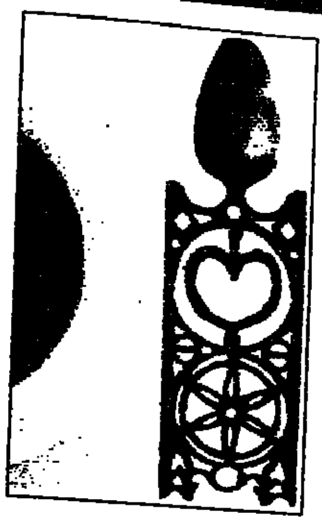

Succulent fast food recipe for a seduction

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PLUS: Paul Heiney on clean cooking, page 3

OFFERS

Win an adventure holiday for two every year for life

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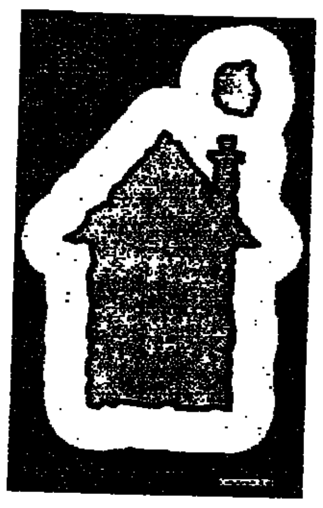

What to gain from owning an offshore house

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PLUS: Mavis Nicholson on her barn, page 6

PETS

Does your dog need a personal trainer?

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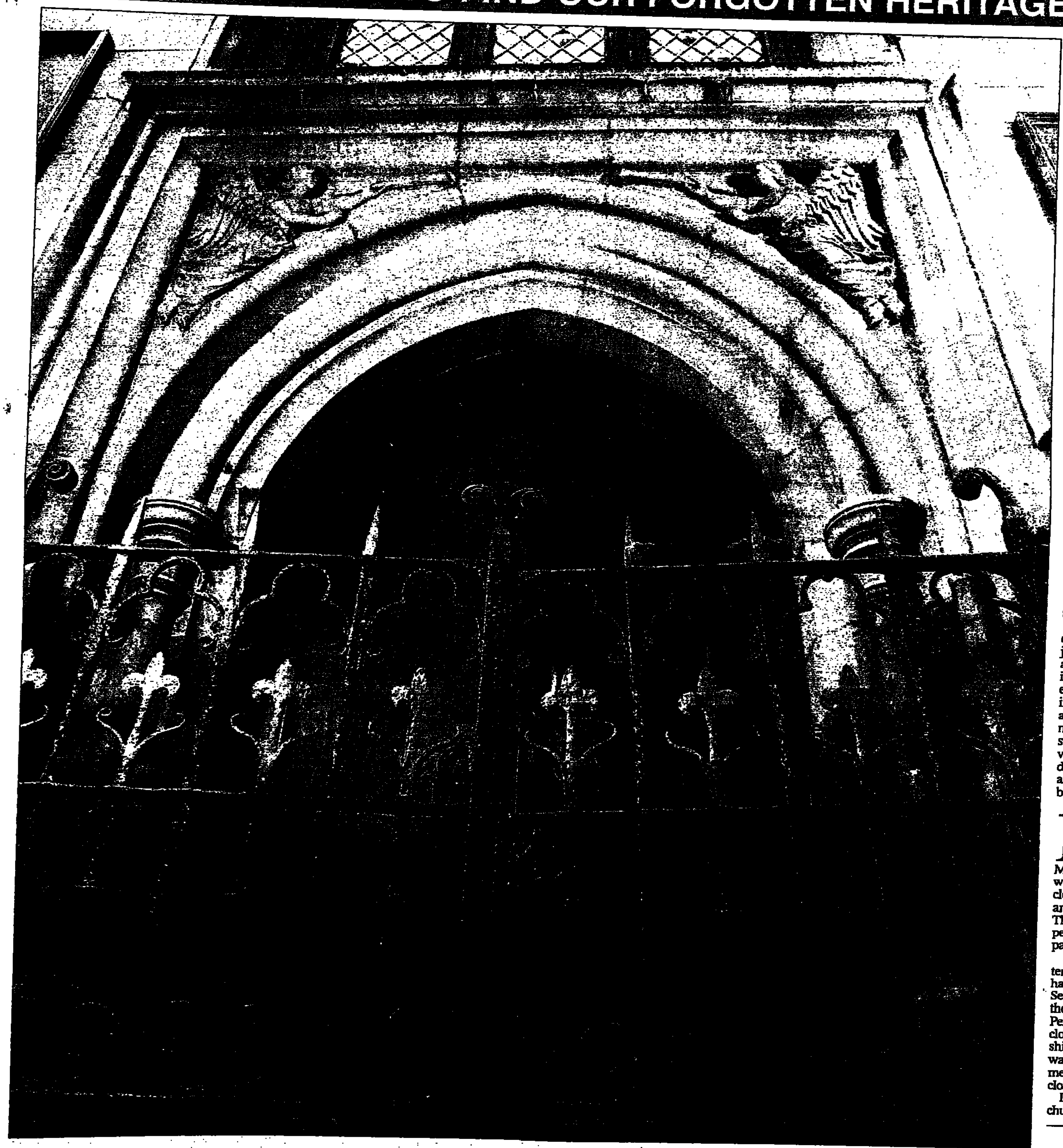
PLUS: trendy fish make Pet News, page 9

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

HOW TO FIND OUR FORGOTTEN HERITAGE



by John Martin Robinson

Last summer, with a group of friends, I made a long journey to see St Mary's Church at Whalley in Lancashire, described by Pevsner as being "exceptionally rich in furnishings and especially woodwork" and where the star attraction is the set of early 15th-century choir stalls with carved misericords, rescued from Whalley Abbey at the Dissolution of the monasteries.

At 4.15 on a Saturday afternoon the church was locked. We went to a small, modern house some distance away to ask for the key where we were met by a woman who told us she was busy baking a cake and could not open the church for us, nor could she let us borrow the key.

The picture of church-visiting is not generally so frustrating. While it is no longer possible, as it was 30 years ago, to drive around the country and find all the churches open in daylight hours, with a little homework (see page 2) the determined sightseer can gain access to many churches which, despite the destruction of the Reformation and Civil War, contain medieval works of art of superb quality, some of which are shown in the first part of BBC2's *A History of British Art* tomorrow at 7.30pm.

More than any other old buildings, these churches are the tangible expression and receptacle of English history: treasure houses of woodcarving, painting, sculpture, furniture, books, needlework, silver plate and stained glass. Moreover many of these objects have the unique character of works of art used and cherished and forming part of their original architectural setting, rather than being isolated, out of context, in a museum. The problem is that when churches are locked against thieves and vandals many seem generally inaccessible to the public.

The closure of churches is usually blamed on the demands of insurance, but this is often just a lazy excuse. The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, set up in the 19th century to insure all the Church of England, in fact encourages parochial councils and church incumbents to keep churches open and attended during daylight hours as the best means of protecting buildings, subject to sensible precautions and the safe-keeping of valuable moveable objects. Locked and deserted churches are much more likely to attract vandalism, arson and theft than open, busy-looking buildings.

Many of the greatest medieval town churches, such as St Peter Mancroft in Norwich, St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol or St Mary Magdalene in Newark, are usually open on weekdays when there are vergers present, cleaners at work, regular midday services and the general bustle of ecclesiastical life. The picture at weekends, which is when most people do their "church-crawling", is more patchy and varies from county to county.

Churches in the Midlands in particular tend to be inaccessible: Hawton in Nottingham, with its magnificent Decorated Easter Sepulchre, or Strelley near Nottingham, with the tombs of the Strelley family and a good Perpendicular rood screen, always seem to be closed when I try to visit them. Northamptonshire, too, which is criss-crossed by motorways and new roads facilitating the movement of the criminal classes, also tends to close its churches most of the time.

In East Anglia, however, where the churches, thanks to medieval wool prosperity,

Continued on page 2

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The battle is on to keep the country's finest old churches in repair, open and used

Continued from page 1

contain the finest medieval woodwork in the country — angel roofs, fretted and painted screens, carved benches, towering font covers — many of the rural churches are open at weekends. This is partly due to the activity of the Norfolk Historic Churches Trust under the direction of the redoubtable Billa Harrod, who for decades has campaigned to keep old churches there in repair, open and used.

Some of the finest Perpendicular rood screens in the country are in Norfolk, such as that at Attleborough, which retains its original loft and medieval colouring; Barton Turf, where the painted saints and heavenly hierarchies were cleaned in 1978; or Ranworth, the finest of all.

Then there are the tall wooden font covers at Sall and Trunch, the brass-eagle lectern of 1518 at Wiggenhall St Mary, and the 15th-century stained glass at South Creake, near Burnham Market, and much else. Nearly every church in East Anglia has some medieval treasures.

On the other side of the country in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Warwickshire a new initiative, "Through the Church Door", started two years ago, organises and advertises regular opening times. In England at present there is no countrywide information available as to when historic churches are open, though the Scottish Churches Scheme has published such a booklet for all denominations.

Through the Church Door, however, has produced the *Country Church Visitors' Handbook* for its four counties which includes regular opening times and, most usefully, contact telephone numbers for churches so that it is possible to plan a visit. This is particularly important because churches such as Kilpeck and Eardisley, both near Hereford, have some of the best Norman sculpture in the country, and Malvern Priory the most complete sequence of 15th-century stained-glass windows in England.

A similar initiative is planned for the diocese of Truro in Cornwall, subject to the money being found, and it is to be hoped that eventually such handbooks will be available for the whole country.

The production of such handbooks might be something English Heritage should consider financing.

An admirable body which publishes county leaflets, but only for the churches in its possession, is the Churches Conservation Trust, formerly the Redundant Churches Fund. Set up under the Pastoral Measure of 1968, the trust preserves churches of historic interest which are no longer in regular parish use and now has 301 churches, the great majority of which are pre-Reformation. The trust is a charity receiving 70 per cent of its funding from the Department of National Heritage and 30 per cent from the Church Commissioners. The trust's more important churches are regularly open, and for the others there is an efficient system of voluntary keyholders whose addresses are posted in the church porch.

Where churches are in the grounds of a great house open to the public, as at Kedleston, Derbyshire, with its medieval tombs of the Curzon family, they are open at the same time as the house. This often also applies to other churches in the grounds of country houses. At Arundel, West Sussex, for instance, the Fitzalan Chapel, with its superb medieval tombs, unique iron rood screen and four medieval altar stones, is open at the same time as the castle on Sunday afternoons, as well as weekdays between April and October.

In 1994 Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber founded the Open Churches Trust with the aim of opening, at regular hours, important historic churches previously shut. The pilot scheme comprises 19 churches in London, Liverpool and Suffolk including, in Suffolk, the notable church of St Nicholas, Denston, with its splendid 15th-century fittings — carved screens, stalls and rood beam.

A further 20 churches are to join the scheme next month in the dioceses of Southwark, Manchester and Durham. Eventually it is hoped to extend the programme to the whole country if matching funds can be found.

As a result of private initiatives of this type, more of England's incomparable treasures of medieval art are becoming available. But much more could be done to put them on the map.

At your service, page 15

WHERE TO FIND THE TREASURES

THE ARTWORKS *shown right* and their locations, listed below, feature in the first part of *A History of British Art*, to be shown on BBC2 tomorrow at 7.30pm, and in Andrew Graham-Dixon's book of the same name (BBC Books, £25). There is also a BBC booklet to accompany the series, *On the Trail of British Art*, which is available from BBC Education, History of British Art, PO Box 7, London W5 2GO, with a cheque for £3.50 payable to BBC Education.

1 FOULIS EASTER CHURCH
near Dundee (01382 580210).
Can be viewed by appointment.

2 THE LADY CHAPEL
Ely Cathedral, Ely, Cambridgeshire (01353 667735).
Open daily, summer 7am-7pm; winter 7.30am-6pm. Entry fee of £3 includes access to the whole cathedral. Tours available.

3 CHURCH OF ST HELEN
Ranworth, Norfolk (01603 270 263).
Open daily until dusk, donations welcome.

4 CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE
Withersdale, Suffolk (01379 586343).
Open daily until dusk, donations welcome.

5 ST PETER'S CHURCH
Wenhaston, Suffolk (01502 478351).
Open daily 9am-dusk, donations welcome.

6 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Blythburgh, Suffolk (01502 478459).
Open daily 8am-dusk, donations welcome.

7 CHURCH OF ST MARY
Ufford, Suffolk (01394 460935).
Open during daylight hours, donations welcome.

8 THE MERCER'S HALL
The Mercer's Company, London EC2 (0171-726 4991).
The figure of Christ in the hall can be viewed by appointment only. Contact Ursula Carlyle

9 ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH
Wells, Somerset (01749 676906).
Open daily until 5pm, donations welcome

10 CHURCH OF ST ANDREW
Cullompton, Devon (01884 33249).
Open during daylight hours

11 EXETER CATHEDRAL
Open daily until dusk, but the gallery, visible from the cathedral, can be *visited by appointment only. For appointments and information on tours* available telephone 01392 55573.

12 ST MARY'S PRIORY CHURCH
Abergavenny, Gwent (01873 853168).
Will complete a six-year restoration in October 1996. Open daily 10am-noon, and 2-4pm

13 CHURCH OF MERTHYR ISSUI
Partrishow (Patricio), Powys, Wales (01873 810348).
Open daily, donations welcome.

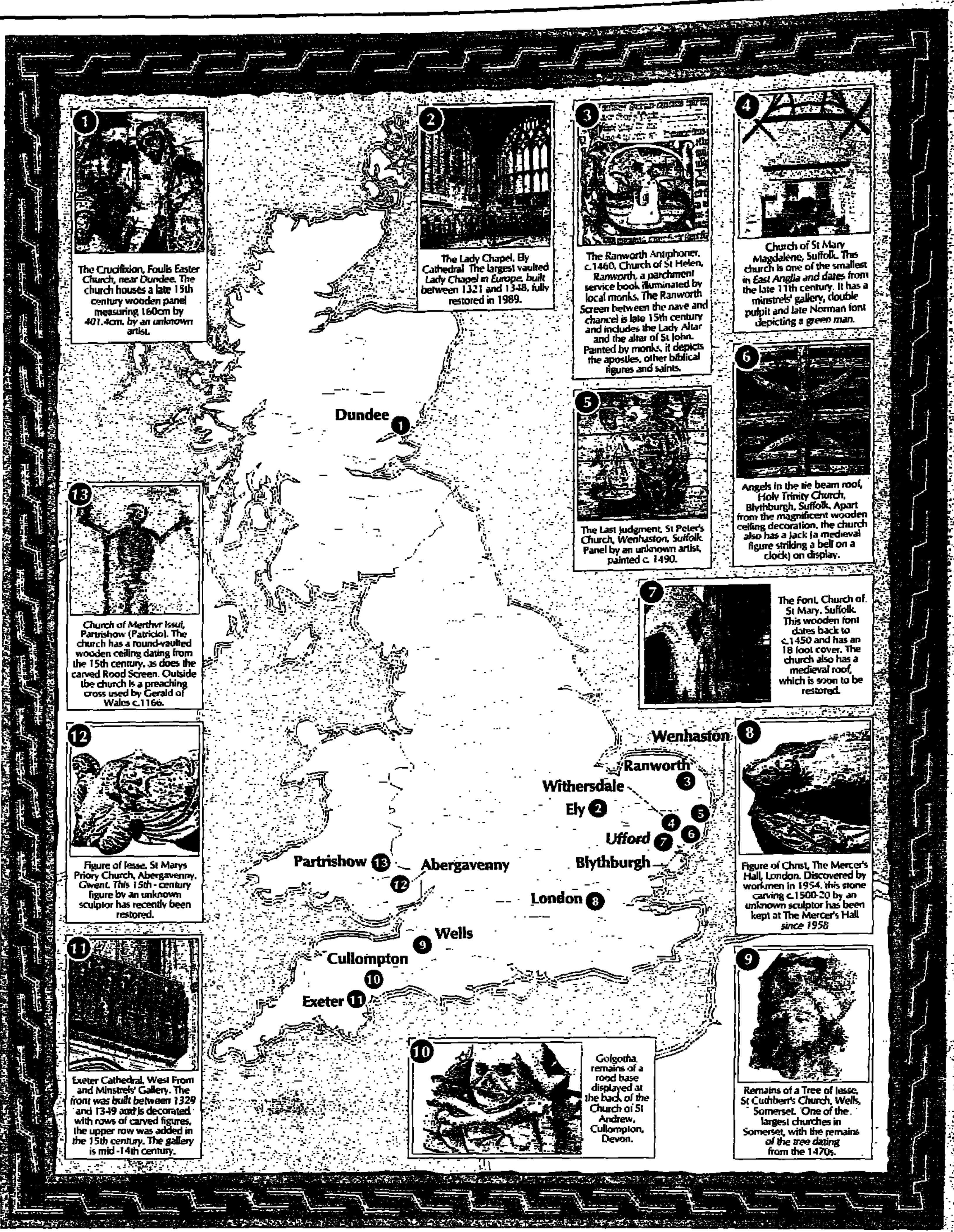
The Country Church Visitors' Handbook is obtainable from Through the Church Door, The Hay Loft, The Old Vicarage, Church Lane, Stoulton, Worcestershire WR7 4RE (01905 841554)

County leaflets are available from The Churches Conservation Trust, 89 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DH (0171-936 2285).

The Open Churches Trust is c/o The Really Useful Group, 22 Tower Street, London WC2 H9NS (0171-240 0880).

The front cover photograph shows the Hart Street entrance of St Olave's in the City of London. Samuel Pepys, who is buried in the church, saved it from the Fire of London by persuading the Navy to blow up all nearby houses. Inside, there is a 15th-century doorcase with the original door. On weekdays the church is usually open 9am-6pm and on Sundays 11am-12.30pm. The rector, John Cowling, will sometimes admit visitors outside those times if he is available. St Olave's, 8 Hart *Street, London EC3*

AMANDA LOOSE



1 The Crucifixion, Foulis Easter Church, near Dundee. The church houses a late 15th century wooden panel measuring 160cm by *401.4cm, by an unknown* artist.

2 The Lady Chapel, Ely Cathedral. The largest vaulted *Lady Chapel in Europe, built* between 1321 and 1348, fully restored in 1989.

3 The Ranworth Antiphoner, c.1460, Church of St Helen, *Ranworth*, a parchment service book illuminated by local monks. The Ranworth Screen between the nave and *chancel* is late 15th century and includes the Lady Altar and the altar of St John. Painted by monks, it depicts the apostles, other biblical figures and saints.

4 Church of St Mary Magdalene, Suffolk. This church is one of the smallest in *East Anglia and dates* from the late 11th century. It has a minstrels' gallery, double pulpit and late Norman font *depicting a green man.*

5 The Last Judgment, St Peter's Church, *Wenhaston, Suffolk.* Panel by an unknown artist, painted c. 1490.

6 Angels in the tie beam roof, *Holy Trinity Church,* Blythburgh, Suffolk. Apart from the magnificent wooden ceiling decoration, the church also has a jack (a medieval figure striking a bell on a clock) on display.

7 The Font, Church of St Mary, Suffolk. This wooden font dates back to c.1450 and has an 18 foot cover. The church also has a medieval roof, which is soon to be restored.

8 Figure of Christ, The Mercer's Hall, London. Discovered by workmen in 1954, this stone carving c.1500-20 by an unknown sculptor has been kept at The Mercer's Hall *since 1958*

9 Remains of a Tree of Jesse, St Cuthbert's Church, Wells, Somerset. One of the largest churches in Somerset, with the remains *of the tree dating* from the 1470s.

10 Golgotha, remains of a rood base displayed at the back of the Church of St Andrew, Cullompton, Devon.

11 Exeter Cathedral, West Front and Minstrels' Gallery. The *front was built between 1329* and 1349 *and is decorated* with rows of carved figures, the upper row was added in *the 15th century. The gallery* is mid-14th century.

12 Figure of Jesse, St Marys Priory Church, Abergavenny, Gwent. *This 15th-century* figure by an unknown sculptor has recently been restored.

13 *Church of Merthyr Issui,* Partrishow (Patricio). The church has a round-vaulted wooden ceiling dating from the 15th century, as does the carved Rood Screen. Outside the church is a preaching cross used by Gerald of Wales c.1166.

Cover photograph by STEVEN HARVEY

Graphic on this page by DUNCAN STEWART

Graphic pictures: Anthony F. Kirsting, Eileen Tweedy, Nicholas Turpin, Nicholas Tilly and Crown Copyright

Plovers lighten gloom

Feather report

THERE are about 30 species of bird that can be considered regular summer visitors to Britain, and at this time our whole landscape would be quite different without them — swallows and swifts in the sky, cuckoos calling, the rich songs of blackcaps and garden warblers in the foliage, wheatears and whinchats darting about on the moors.

Some species have become scarcer in recent years. We have to lament the musical lamentations of the nightingale, now heard only in a few places in the South East, and many people are waiting to see if the house martins will come back to their eaves again this year.

The soft purring of the turtle dove is also now quite a rare sound in the English hedgerows, as the alarming report by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on bird decline emphasised this week.

However, there has been one notable success story in recent years: that of the little ringed plover.

There was great excitement on the shores of a reservoir in Tring, Hertfordshire, in 1938, when a pair of these hitherto rare birds was found nesting there. Three pairs were found in 1944, and since the Second World War their numbers have steadily risen. Now, about 1,000 pairs return regularly each spring, and spread throughout the country. This year they seem to have done it again.

Their slightly larger relative, the ringed plover, is quite common *on the coast.* The little ringed plovers are nearly all found inland. On the Continent, *they nest on the* pebbly shores of rivers, but here it is flooded gravel pits *that have given them their* opening.

I was at a gravel pit last week. I was watching some lapwings quarrelling on a sandspit when suddenly I saw another movement at the edge of it. It was a little ringed plover running past on twinkling feet. *A moment later* another swept through the air, made several zigzag turns *above the water, and alighted* beside the first one.

Little ringed plovers are delightful birds, with their rapid movements both on land and above it, and their masked faces. They are not easy to distinguish from ringed plovers except in flight, when the ringed plover reveals a distinct white wingbar, while the little ringed plover is plain brown above.

In flight, too, they each have a distinctive call. The little ringed plover's is a sharp "teeu", *while its cousin's is a* musical "tooee".

The sounds may not be very *different, transliterated like* that, but they cannot be confused once you have heard them.

Humans, far from harming the species. Not only have they provided this new gravel-pit habitat for them, but the birds positively like nesting where there are workmen about, because predators such as hobbies and sparrowhawks will not come near.

In fact, their whole domestic economy is *affected* in an interesting way by questions of security. They nest on *shingle or gravel, hollowing* out a shallow space with their breasts, and lining it with small pebbles. In this setting their four mottled eggs, laid in the shape of a cross, blend well with their surroundings. Some waders line their ground nests with dry grass, but thet would make the little ringed plovers' nests on the bare stones too conspicuous to predatory gulls and crows.

However, heat leaks away very easily from the eggs on this stony bed, and they cannot be left for long. So both sexes sit on the eggs, constantly taking short turns, and *feeding intensively in between* in order to keep up their own warmth.

Moreover, *the eggs are relatively* large for such a small bird, and take a long time — almost four weeks — to hatch, because the young must be well-enough developed to run *for cover as soon as they break* through the shells.

After that, the young quite quickly start *fending for themselves.* But it is a hard life for these dainty little visitors every summer.

Little ringed plovers are now regular visitors

DERWENT MAY

● ***What's about:*** ***Birders — Watch for house martins over lakes and houses. Twitchers — Calandra lark on St Agnes, Isles of Scilly: American coot on Stodmarsh, Kent, two harlequin ducks near Girvan, Ayrshire. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 39p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all***

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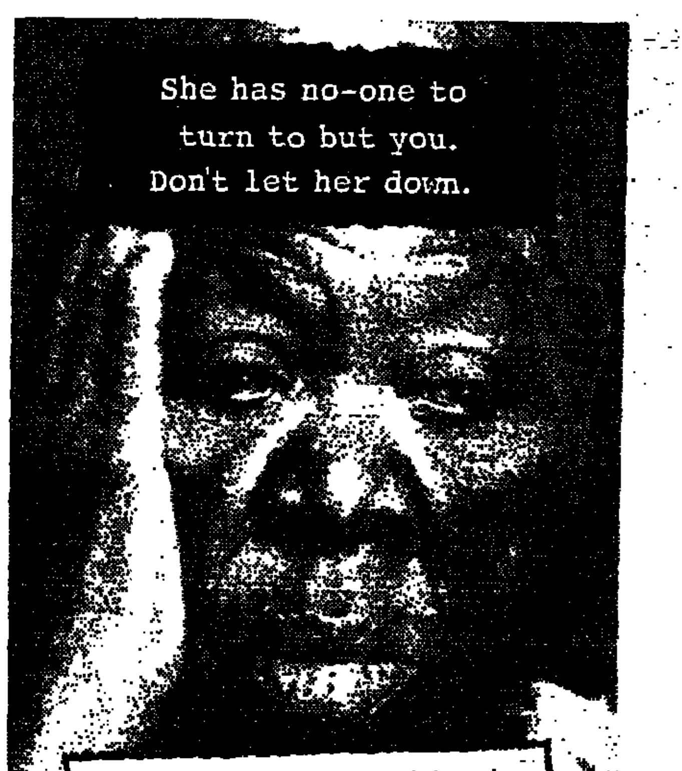

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هكذا من الأصل

A 1920s cookbook yields a recipe for Folkestone pie — good marching fodder for an army — and a host of tips on household hygiene

The old ones are always the best

If I am right in thinking that Harpic is the disinfectant that gets right round the bend and puts the fear of God into microbes in life's less savoury places, then I have unearthed one of the most bizarre sponsorship deals in history.

A slender volume has come into my possession entitled the *Harpic Cook Book*, published in 1926. Can you believe it? Is it possible that, while history records that the smart thing to do in the 1920s was the Charleston, the nation was, in fact, taking Harpic to its bosom and muttering the slogan "a sprinkle at night leaves the lavatory germ-free and white" while consulting the recipe for kidney hotpot, which appears on the same page? We are also told that this miracle product "clears the drain from house to main", right alongside the directions for chocolate mould with peppermint cream sauce.

For the sake of my stomach, I generally prefer to keep some distance between "dealing with bluebottles" and cauliflower fritters, in the same way that I would not relish the *Elastoplast Book of Meat Carving*, or *Milk of Magnesia's Guide to Curries of the World*. But people were made of sterner stuff in 1927.

But in my new life, which finds me increasingly wed to the kitchen stove, the Harpic book has proved invaluable. I now know that a proper housewife's duties include, at 9.45am, "rub up letterbox, sweep porch and steps" and, having spent between 10.30am and 11am examining the lavatory pans, setting aside no less than an hour and a half after lunch for washing-up.

However, all that apart, for someone whose declared ambition is to draw the world's attention once again to the value of all things homemade, this book is a treasure trove. No sooner had my eyes fallen upon the recipe for Folkestone pie that *I had to make one there and then*. And what do you think might be the principal ingredient of a dish named after this South Coast harbour, one of our gateways to the Continent? Something fishy? A French influence? No, this pie is mostly rice. I am as bewildered as you. I have been to Folkestone many times but did not spot any paddy fields.

PAUL HEINEY

HOME MADE

To be a proper homemade dish, the recipe has to have nothing in it that could not have been bought over the counter of any grocer's shop in the 1950s. Not for nostalgic reasons, but because I have set myself the task of understanding ingredients, and you are never going to appreciate the joys of, say, Yorkshire pudding if you buy a bag of ready-mixed powders. I prefer to start from scratch.

So, for the Folkestone pie I first needed some pastry. Straight away I find I am being untrue to my principles, because I have always had problems with pastry. It is the bit where "you rub the fat into the flour till it resembles breadcrumbs". I have never created anything other than greasy, floured lumps by this method — certainly not dough.

The *Harpic Cook Book* offers good advice on pastry-making but it is adjacent to a sermon called the "ABC of Home Sanitation", and I found my eyes wandering to a worrying phrase: "Pause to consider how seldom is every house in any street entirely free of contagious diseases."

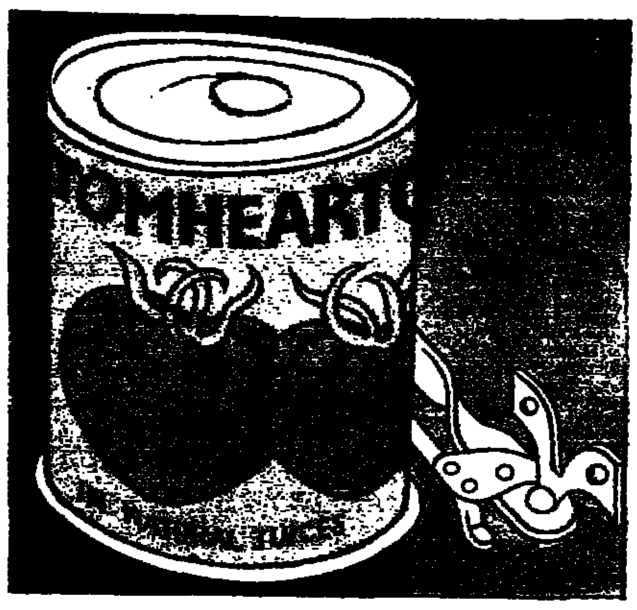
So, because I was in a hurry to bring you this dish, I bought frozen pastry, rolled it out and lined a shallow pie dish. I then baked it in a hot oven till crispy. Not *the* oven about which I was writing last week; that is still undergoing a flue transplant. I popped it into the Aga. An Aga, according to its high priestess Mary Berry, seems to be one of those things into which you never *put* things, you always "pop" them, like popping to the lavatory. Sorry. Harpic on the brain.

For the filling of the Folkestone pie, you need 3oz of pudding rice simmered in a pint of milk for about half an hour until you have a creamy rice pudding. You might think it is worth stopping here and just tucking in, but you would be missing a treat. Add to your creamy rice a hefty knob of butter, a good handful of currants, 4oz of sugar and a couple of well-beaten eggs. Pour this mixture into the pie dish, now lined with crisp pastry, and bake for half an hour or so until it goes slightly brown on top.

The book says that this can be served hot or cold and that an ideal accompaniment is a spoonful of marshmallow cream. Never heard of it, have you? By coincidence, a Kenwood Chef cookbook (undated but judging by the ladies' hairdos about 1955) tells me that whisking together for a hearty four minutes one egg white and half a pound of sieved jam produces the stuff, and that it keeps well in the refrigerator.

I found it disappointing: too sweet, sticky and gluey for me.

But Folkestone pie is a different matter. Admittedly, it is the sort of food on which an army could march a long way, assuming it ever managed to start moving at all after such an assault on its stomach, but it hits the spot on a cold day, it is real food, and truly homemade. If I could suggest an improvement, I would spread a generous layer of bitter marmalade on the pastry before adding the rice mixture, and sprinkle a little nutmeg on the top of the rice before baking. It needs a little more sweetness down below, and a touch more spice on top. Just like Folkestone, really.



Spontaneous temptation for lovers

FAST FOOD

Amorous, impetuous dinner for two

Champagne
Artichoke heart and parmesan salad
Tiger prawn linguine
Ice-cream and hot chocolate sauce

This is a quick, luxurious dinner for two which can be cobbled together with ingredients from the fridge, the freezer and the store cupboard. Whether it is an impromptu romancing of your partner or a special dinner for a new love, seize the day and the tin opener — and don't forget the candles.

■ **Start drinking champagne**

■ **Make pasta sauce**

Heat one tablespoon of olive oil in a saucepan. Crush three cloves of garlic into the oil. Stir for a minute. Add a 400g (14oz) tin of chopped tomatoes, a glass (100ml/3floz) of champagne and half a teaspoon of dried chilli flakes. Bring to the boil and simmer for five minutes.

■ **Make chocolate sauce**

If you have a microwave, put 50g plain chocolate, two tablespoons of milk and one tablespoon of Cointreau (or whatever liqueur you have to hand) into a microwave-resistant bowl. Melt and stir to make a smooth sauce:

If you are using an ordinary cooker, put the ingredients into a bowl that fits above a pan of simmering water. Heat, stirring occasionally until the ingredients melt together, usually after a couple of minutes.

■ **Make and serve salad**

On two plates, arrange the sliced artichoke hearts in a little of the oil from the bottle. Sprinkle a few drops of sherry or wine vinegar onto each plate and mix into the oil. Using a knife or a potato peeler, pare a few shavings of parmesan onto the artichoke hearts. Season with black pepper. Serve.

■ **Finish and serve pasta**

Put 150g (5oz) linguine into boiling water and cook for six minutes, or until it is *al dente*.

Meanwhile, add 200g (7oz) tiger prawns to the sauce and cook for five more minutes, until the prawns are completely heated through, stirring from time to time. Turn off the heat. Season with salt and black pepper.

Drain and divide the pasta between two plates. Put sauce on top.

■ **Serve pudding**

Take the ice-cream out of the freezer. Bring the water under the chocolate sauce to the boil and heat until it is hot. Serve the ice-cream in bowls and pour the sauce on top.

HATTIE ELLIS

Shopping list

Dairy
Small tub ice-cream
20g parmesan cheese
2 tbs milk

Shellfish
200g (7oz) frozen, cooked and peeled tiger prawns

Savoury goods
280g (10oz) bottle artichoke hearts in oil
400g (14oz) can chopped tomatoes
½ tsp dried chilli flakes
few drops sherry or wine vinegar

Sweet goods
50g (2oz) plain chocolate

Drink
1 bottle of champagne or sparkling wine
1 tbs Cointreau (or other liqueur)

MARTIN BEDDALL

Miel des Toits de Paris, from a hive installed on the roof of the Paris opera house in 1984, is on sale in Selfridges for £9.50 per 125g (4½oz) jar

DIGEST

All the buzz from France

WELL placed to win an award for the most far-fetched food product of 1996 is *Miel des Toits de Paris*, an exclusive honey from leading Paris grocer Fauchon, on sale at Selfridges at £9.50 for a 125g (4½oz) jar.

Why so expensive? Because of its rarity. The honey comes from a hive kept on the roof of the Paris opera house. It was installed in 1984 by the opera's interior designer, Jean Paucton, who was trying to find a temporary home for the bees. About 500 pots of honey are made a year.

In case you're worrying that the honey might be tainted with Gauloises smoke, traffic fumes or the odd pigeon dropping, rest assured. The 1995 vintage (yes, a vintage is declared each year) is delectably sweet, sticky and smells of lime blossom. The honey keeps indefinitely.

Kid stuff?

STRANGE when we have embraced the Mediterranean diet so wholeheartedly that we have never really taken to kid, a delicacy in countries such as Greece and Italy, where it constitutes the centrepiece of the Easter table.

Bob Kennard, a Welsh farmer supplying organic meat, reckons it is the name that puts people off. He prefers to call it goat, but says that up to now there hasn't been much demand for it. "People are happy to eat lamb, but offer them goat and they go all gooey," he says.

Since the BSE scare, Mr Kennard has seen an upsurge of interest in goat, which is a slightly gamier alternative to lamb. Mr Kennard's new season's leg of lamb costs £9.61 a kilo; a leg of goat is £5.90. Contact him at Graig Farm, Dolau, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5TL (01597 851655).

Join the Yakult

EVERYONE, according to the advertisements in the national media over the past week, is talking Yakult. For those of you who haven't dropped it into your conversation, Yakult is a Japanese; fermented drink containing live bacteria which apparently promotes healthy "intestinal flora". It comes in a strip of seven dinky 65ml plastic bottles, each of which, the company claims, contains 6.5 million lactobacillus casei Shirota, the lactic acid bacteria named after the doctor who identified this strain 60 years ago.

After three days of swigging it, I have to report my intestinal flora seem much the same as usual. It tastes a bit like a mandarin-flavoured yoghurt drink but is nothing to write home about. It is, however, a brilliant money-making idea. Keeping my family of six in Yakult for a year would cost £780, which may explain why the company has a turnover of £1.54 billion worldwide.

Takeaway chic

UBIQUITOUS television chef and restaurateur Antony Worrall Thompson seems to be taking the name of his latest restaurant, Drones, literally. He has opened a shop next door providing ready-cooked food for those who don't want to lift a finger in the kitchen.

The deal's a good one. Lunch at Drones and you'll pay about £30 a head for a three-course meal, presumably for the benefit of sitting — as I did — next to Joan Collins. You can take away similar dishes from The Grocer (as the takeaway side is called) for £10 to £12.

The dinner-party pack the day I was there contained antipasti, lamb tagine and couscous; and blood orange and chocolate trifle — all for £10.50. You could, alternatively, have picked up tomato, fennel and basil soup, seared smoked salmon and mango salad, Jamaican rabbit curry, coq au vin, chocolate and raspberry terrine, assorted oils, spices and pickles, and even a carton of milk. The menu changes every day, but if you want something specific tell them in advance and they'll make it for you.

The Grocer and Drones are at 1-3 Pont Street, London SW1. Restaurant reservations, 0171-259 6166. Shop, 0171-259 6188.

Coffee froth

THE COFFEE craze that started in Seattle, Washington, seems to be getting a grip in Britain. Before you swan into one of the smart new bars you need to get the hang of American coffeespeak. Rule one: don't ask for a black coffee — ask for an espresso (or an Americano if you don't like it strong). Rule two (and more important): never ask for a white — ask for a latte or a cappuccino. The difference between the two is a matter of foam. Cappuccino is frothier. It contains a slug of espresso topped up half-and-half with steamed and foamed milk. Latte (which rhymes with satay) has mostly steamed milk, with a spoonful of foam on top. Latte Macchiato (*makkiato*), on the other hand, reverses the process by adding a shot of coffee to the milk, as opposed to an Espresso Macchiato, which adds a dash of milk to the coffee.

Confused? You ain't heard nothing yet. Real coffee addicts (and health nuts) customise their coffees. You saunter in in a Kate Moss-ish way and ask for a Tall Skinny — a latte made with a double portion of non-fat milk. And don't look surprised when it comes in a glass.

Try American-style coffee at branches of Aroma in London, Coffee Republic in South Molton Street, W1, and the Seattle Coffee Company in Covent Garden and Cambridge.

Erroneous zone

THE BLURB on book dustjackets is often asinine, but new depths are plumbed by Margi Clarke's *Better Than Sex Cookbook* (Hodder, £14.99). "Food That Makes Love To Your Tastebuds" trills the cover. Inside are some pretty sad recipes. If Ms Clarke finds Quorn and Beansprout Parcels better than sex I suggest she was the wrong woman to front ITV's *Good Sex Guide*.

FIONA BECKETT

Chocolate Box

IN BOOTHS lit only by a red bulb, it's all about "mouthfeel". This is the sampling centre in Bournville, the source of inspiration for the 526,000 tonnes of Cadbury's chocolate we eat each year. The centre has 200 volunteers, but only Cadbury's staff can apply. *Alex Wijeratna writes.*

Assessments from the volunteers are honed and analysed by George Dadd, the tastefully titled Sensory Evaluation Manager — "I call myself the chief chocolate taster." He insists on the red-lit booths so that assessors pay attention to the taste rather than the look of the samples. Mr Dadd, a chocoholic — "I buy chocolate when I'm off duty" — is in search of the Holy Grail of chocolate. Balance is all: mouthfeel, particle size, creaminess, caramelisation, bitterness — all have to be present.

"Snap the chocolate to smell its aroma, then bite it," he says. "The bite should be firm but not hard."

The chocolate is rubbed between the tongue and the back of the teeth. As it melts, it is pushed to smother the back of the tongue. "I don't want it to feel sandy or slimy on the palette," he says. "Follow the flavour as it decreases." To achieve what Mr Dadd considers the right mouthfeel, the melting point has to be perfect: cocoa beans from Ghana are favoured over Malaysian which are slower to melt in the mouth.

Most testers swallow the chocolate then sip mineral water. Mr Dadd spits it out. Either way, a dozen samples at one sitting are about as much as the tastebuds can take. With especially strong chocolate, it's eight.

His latest creation, Whisper Gold, an aerated chocolate smothered with a layer of caramel and wrapped in more chocolate, has just arrived in the shops. There are other developments, but these are top secret in case rivals get hold of the plans.

● *Cadbury World exhibition, Linden Road, Bournville, Birmingham B30 2LD (0121-451 4180/4159). Open daily 10am-5.30pm, though this can vary, so ring. £5 for adults: £3.45 for children (aged 5-15), under-5s free. Family tickets £14.50 (2 plus 2) or £17.50 (2 plus 3). OAPs £4.35, Mon-Fri.*

Chocolate in Yorkshire, page 21

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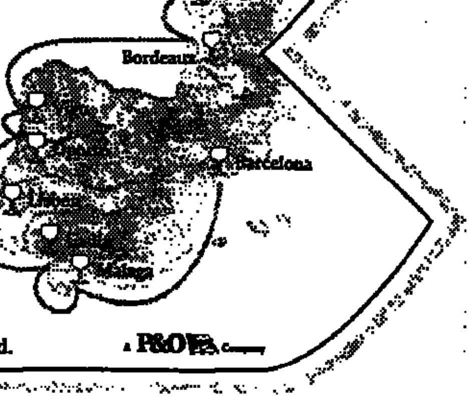


GARDEN ANSWERS

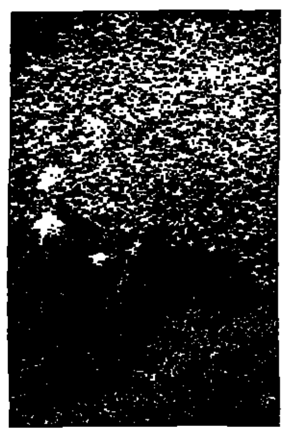
STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q I grew some standard fuchsias from cuttings last year. How should I prune them so that they will do well again this year? — Mrs K.M. Robb, Wooler, Northumberland.

A Prune back the head of the bush, taking the main shoots back to two pairs of buds, and removing weak shoots. When the new shoots break, nip out the tips after four to five pairs of leaves to encourage a bushy head. Feed well with liquid tomato fertiliser as the season progresses. Rub off any sucker shoots on the stem. Next winter, keep the plants cool and on the dry side, giving just enough moisture from time to time to stop them wilting.

Q My two-year-old pot-grown *Crambe cordifolia* has not flowered. Why? — Mrs M.E. Hum, Chichester, West Sussex.

A A clump of crambe in full summer sail is quite a sight. When it flowers, a hollow trunk shoots up from coarse, kale-like foliage to branch and burst into a thousand white stars. *One plant is good, but* three look amazing. The trunks need staking, because they will rise to 7ft, with a dome of flower half as much across. It is not an easy plant to pot-up. If you lift a crown you will have to slice off a bud with some of the fat, arm-like roots attached. The chances are that the main flowering-sized buds will be in the middle of the clump, and almost unpottable without including the whole clump, or without cutting off all the roots. Meanwhile, all the bits of root you left behind sprout new crambe plants. Crambe is most easily grown from seed, using modest amounts of compost. You have to wait three or four years for the crown to reach flowering size. Do not feed it too much nitrogen: this makes the crown soft and sometimes rot or go hollow. Plant out in rough, well-drained soil.



Crambe cordifolia

Q By how much, and when, should I cut back my straggly three-year-old lithospermum? — P. Miles, Gosport, Hampshire

A *Lithospermum diffusum*, or *Lithodora diffusa* as it is now called, looks wonderful as a first-year plant in a small pot and covered in intense, deep-blue tubular flowers. But it serves best when grown among other low, lime-hating plants, such as heathers and dwarf rhododendrons. To encourage neatness and density of foliage, nip out the tips of the leading shoots regularly, forcing it to branch out sideways. Planted on its own it almost always becomes bald at the centre in two to three years. Look out for the well-tried clones, such as 'Heavenly Blue' and 'Grace Ward'. More compact and lime-tolerant is the species *Lithodora oleifolia*, which has silvery leaves in an evergreen hummock and fine sky-blue flowers, but lacks that captivating lustre of the commoner species.

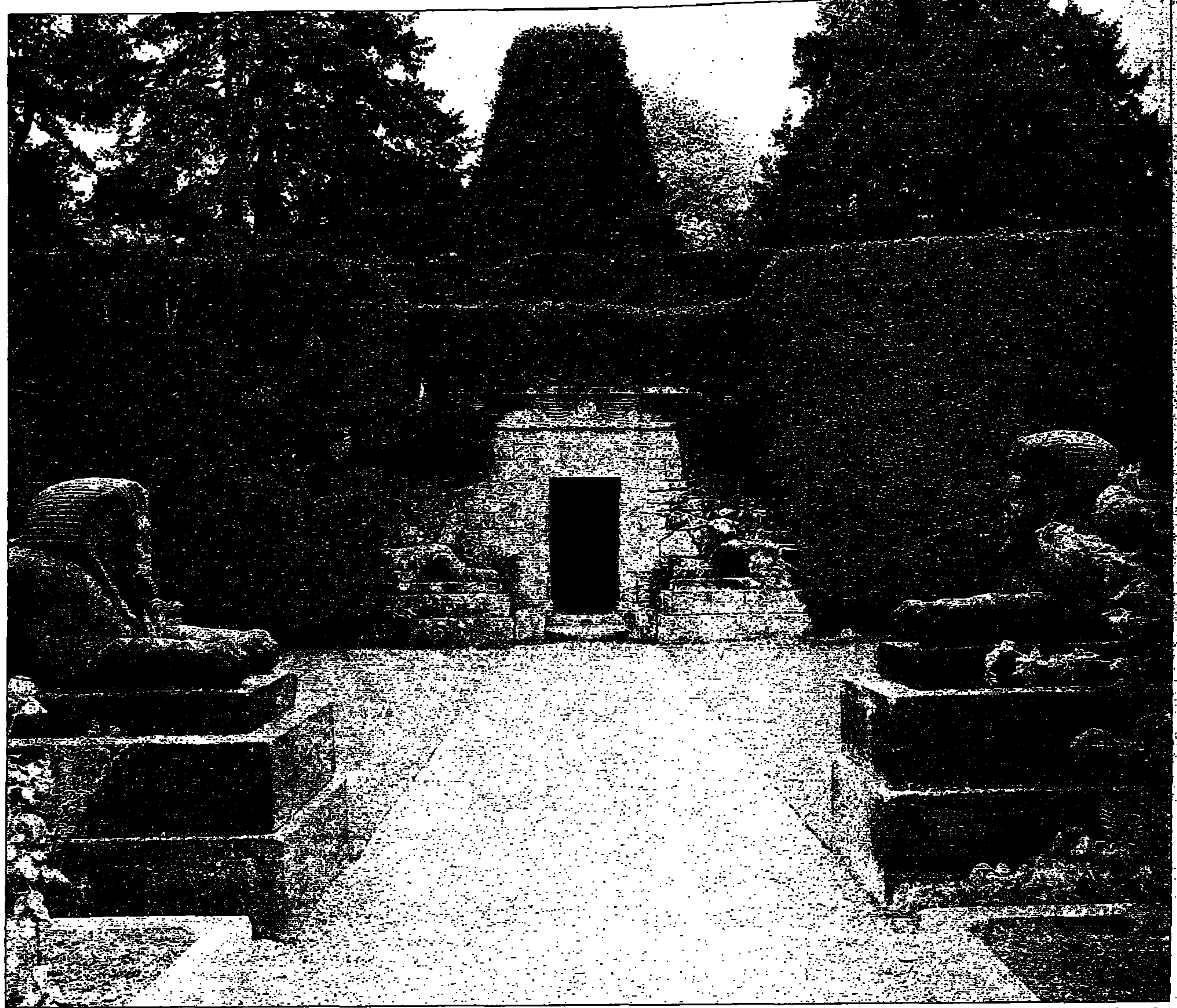
Q I would like to grow asparagus but am told you have to wait for three years before cutting the first spear. Is this so? — N.J. Foster, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

A Yes and no. It depends on the age of the plants you buy. Usually they are a couple of years old when you buy them and, after a year of establishing themselves in your garden, you can gradually begin to harvest the spears. Most reputable sellers will tell you the age of the plants. When you cut that first asparagus spear, remember that you are cutting the main stem of the plant and denying it the first option on food production for the year. The plant makes other, secondary, shoots but it loses its first strongest shoots to you. So, to cut too soon in a plant's life is to deny it the energy to establish itself properly. The result would be thin spears for several years. Even established plants should be allowed to keep all their shoots after mid-June, so that they can grow on to feed the plant for next year. Plants that are well cared for will crop for 15-20 years.

● *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

Forget patching up groups of trees past their best, **Stephen Anderton** says. Axe them and start again

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY



One of the magnificent corners of Biddulph Grange garden, Staffordshire, where the National Trust has started work on rejuvenating the avenue laid out by James Bateman in the 1860s

Be brave, give old trees the chop

Shocking though it may sound, formal tree plantings on any scale are best cleared and started again when they get old. With an avenue or formal, patterned planting, no amount of patching will restore the original glory.

I was looking recently at an illustration of the devastation caused by the storm at Versailles. Not the 1987 storm, but an 18th-century one. And I wondered whether it was seen to be so terrible then as we would see it today?

The answer was yes. People were horrified. But devastation, whether by divine or human hand, can at times be turned to advantage; an opportunity to repair the design as well as the plants.

Who are we to deny our children the marvel of a perfect *cathedral of trees* by meanly messing about with patch repairs, adding a tree here and there as the old ones begin to die. Will they not say: "But all they had to do was replant the trees. The land was there. The design was there. All it needed was a few trees."

But it takes nerve to fell an avenue, however decrepit, and start all over again. In a garden open to the public it takes even more nerve.

The National Trust has steeled itself to do the right thing with the avenue at Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire. The garden was made by James Bateman in the 1860s. I like to think of it as a private horticultural theme park: China here, Egypt there; a dozen different character areas sitting beside each other in a dazzling display of styles and habitats.

Not surprisingly, Bateman's *avenue was no ordinary avenue*. It comprised several lines of trees. There was a line of giant redwoods *(Sequoiadendron giganteum)* from California, a second rank of deodar cedars from the western Himalayas, Austrian pines and behind them on an earth bank a row of red-flowered horse chestnuts, *Aesculus x carnea*. And roses by the yard. And yew hedges, too. Whew!

History has served Bateman ill. He had intended the giant redwoods to be the long-term trees soaring, he must have hoped, to 300ft, as they do in America. However, it seems that the British climate does not serve them so well. The *tallest produced in this country* is 53 metres (about 174ft), and looks the worse for wear.

MARTIN RICKETT

Bill Malecki, the head gardener, planted 180 new trees

But later owners of Biddulph Grange felled the *giant redwoods and kept the* deodars. In time, these had become gappy, too, as first one then another fell prey to nature. The red-horse chestnuts were old and shabby, and the general effect last year was one of extreme tiredness.

But imagine that avenue in its prime. Ranks of promising redwoods growing like rockets. Deodars with their grey-green branches clothed to the ground and weeping gracefully at the tips. The conkers flowering well in full light. And the perfume of roses all the way.

The whole avenue rises uphill from the garden to a plateau, and at its end is a *huge, shallow stone vase*, so surreally large that I always want to fill it with water and add an 8ft-wide Alka-Seltzer. This avenue should be all *vigour, not decay.*

After pulling the plug on 30 remaining deodars and 31 horse chestnuts last autumn, the head gardener, Bill Malecki, this winter planted 180 new trees. The redwoods have been grown from seed from other Biddulph redwoods, so the original stock will continue into the next generation.

The red-horse chestnuts have been grafted from the originals on to stocks of the common horse chestnut.

For visitors, there will now be a period when the trees are strong and every one is blessed with the bloom of youth. At least it should be so if nature allows gardening the upper hand. But always around the corner are the spectres of honey fungus and freak winds, which can knock out a tree at any time.

Nevertheless, clearing out an old patch is a chance worth taking. If you were to worry about never getting every tree to maturity you'd never plant a hedge, let alone an avenue.

Mr Malecki has taken trouble to winch out the old tree stumps so that the risk of honey fungus getting a hold is minimised. To ensure healthy roots and strong trees more than a mile of drainage has been installed.

The shock of the change does not last long. Everyone hates to see trees go, but once the new trees are above eye height all seems well again. Different, but well.

Decision time comes again when an avenue needs thinning. Newcomers can be planted either at the normal spacing for mature trees or, for a quicker result, at half that distance, with the intention to thin later. Single lines of forest trees beside a drive can be thinned without too much disturbance to the remaining trees, but a complex scheme, such as Bateman's, with a shrubby understorey, is usually better planted at final spacing.

● *Biddulph Grange garden (01782 517999) is half-a-mile north of Biddulph, near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Open Wed-Fri, noon-6pm; Sat and Sun, 11am-6pm. £4, children £2.*

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Ventilate greenhouses and cold frames to prevent temperatures rising too fast.*
- *Prepare celery trenches and holes for runner beans and courgettes with plenty of old manure or compost.*
- *Gradually lower lawn-mower blades to summer-cutting height as the season progresses.*
- *Make 3in tip cuttings of soft herbaceous plants, such as achillea and perennial salvias. Set the cuttings 1in deep in sandy compost and cover with polythene to stop them wilting.*
- *Pot up mint.*
- *Cut back any roses you have not yet pruned before vigorous growth starts.*
- *Hoe the bare ground between plants regularly before weeds appear, rather than afterwards.*
- *Early-raised bedding plants should gradually be given maximum fresh air in warm weather by lifting them out into sunshine if possible.*

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Gardens to visit

☐ **Caerhays Castle, Gorran, St Austell, Cornwall (01872 501310).**

On the coast ten miles south of St Austell. Open tomorrow and Mon-Fri until May 3, 11am–4pm. £2.50, under 16 £1.50, under 14 free.

This is one of the great magnolia gardens of Britain, and breathtaking at this time of year, particularly with the castle and its romantic setting. The Williams family has developed the gardens since the late 19th century and J.C. Williams bred a number of the most popular and successful camellias grown today. A place every gardener should visit at least once.

☐ **Post House, Cwmbach, Whitland, Dyfed (01994 484213).**

West of Carmarthen via A40 and B4298 to Meidrim, Blaenwaun and Cwmbach. Open daily April-Jun, 10am. £1.50, children 50p.

This is a garden full of interesting, colourful plants in a delightful setting along the banks of the River Sien. Small anemones, trilliums and native orchids are complemented by a succession of flowering shrubs, such as fine species of rhododendrons, through spring and early summer, when the first roses appear, including a superb, spectacular-sized 'Paul's Himalayan Musk' rambler.

☐ **Foxgrove, Enborne, near Newbury, Berkshire (01635 40554).**

Three miles southwest of Newbury, off A343. Open tomorrow and June 9, 2-6pm. £1, children free.

The garden is adjacent to a nursery (open more regularly) and together they are an education for owners of small gardens. Bulbs, alpines and small herbaceous plants are specialities, along with plantings in troughs and raised beds and naturalised small bulbs in the orchard.

☐ **Bolfracks, Aberfeldy, Perthshire (01887 820207).**

Two miles west of Aberfeldy on A827. Open daily April-Oct, 10am-6 pm. £2, children under 16 free.

Bolfracks has spectacular views over the Tay valley, and has been developed by two generations of the Hutchison family since the 1920s. Now is the beginning of seasonal highlights in the two well-planted walled gardens and the more natural walks along the burn garden — spring bulbs followed by flowering shrubs, primulas and meconopsis. There is an extensive rose collection in the walled garden.

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Hodsock Priory is famed for its trees, lake and moat as well as plants

☐ **Hodsock Priory, Blyth, Nottinghamshire (01909 591204).**

Two miles from A1 on B6045 Blyth-Worksop road. Open April-Aug, Tues, Wed and Thurs, 2-5pm, and May 12 and Jun 9. £2, children free.

Hodsock's well-known show of snowdrops in February is followed by a succession of aconites, narcissus and bluebells which continue the garden's flowering display through spring until summer border-planting takes over. The garden's walks reveal distinguished trees, the lake, moat and many other features of natural interest.

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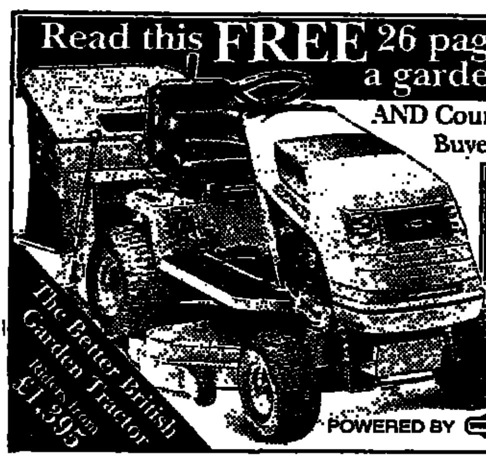

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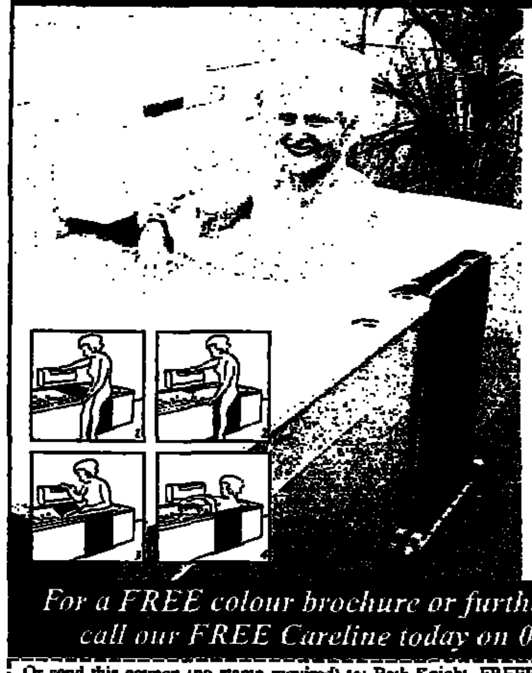

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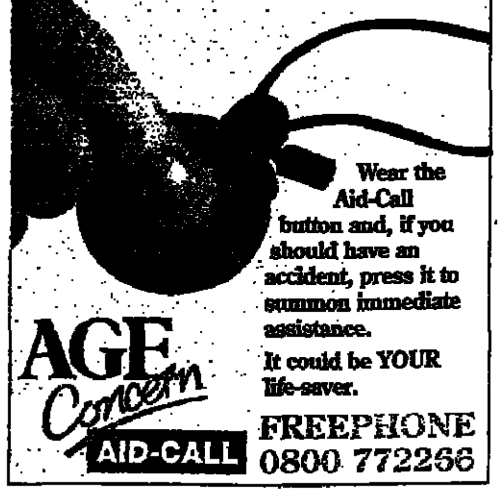

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Forty years of nest-building

Mavis Nicholson's property quest has led her to a barn in Wales

NEWSTEAM

The demolition of a lath and plaster partition wall revealed an oak skeleton, now a feature of the Nicholsons' living room

Negotiations for the purchase of a 19th-century two-up, two-down farmhouse in mid-Wales broke down over a barn. The seller, a local farmer, needed access to the barn, while the prospective buyers, the television interviewer Mavis Nicholson and her journalist husband, Geoffrey, were unwilling to face the prospect of farm vehicles constantly invading their privacy.

The impasse was resolved thanks to the timely intervention of a local estate agent. His suggestion was that the blow-ins — the local nickname for outsiders — should build the farmer a brand-new barn on his own land. Honour was served, and the parties remain firm friends to this day. The house was bought in 1976 for the asking price of £9,500 plus the barn and they moved there permanently in 1982.

Without the barn, the Nicholsons would never have been interested in the property which might have been claustrophobic for two journalists working from home.

Conversion of the barn created space not only for his-and-hers offices, but also for a studio bedroom, lavatory, dark room, shower and playroom for visiting grandchildren. While Mrs Nicholson's office occupies the former dairy, her husband's was a pig sty, he notes. It is here that he has just finished collaborating with the rugby broadcaster Cliff Morgan on his autobiography *Beyond the Fields of Play*, while next door the agony aunt composes her monthly column for *The Oldie* and writes books.

The Nicholsons had intended to return to their roots in South Wales but prices were high, so when, on the last day of a holiday in Powys, they heard in the local pub of a nearby smallholding for sale, they investigated.

It was not the idyllic farmhouse of city dwellers' dreams. "In fact," says Mrs Nicholson, "it was a drab old house." But her husband saw its possibilities. When they discovered the kitchen had a slate floor, they decided to extend it through the living-room space created by the demolition of a partition wall. The oak skeleton of that lath and plaster wall remains.

Neighbours, who had dug up their own slate floors and contributed unwanted slabs to the Nicholsons, now long to have them back, says Mrs Nicholson. Her kitchen is long and narrow like a ship's galley. The Welsh dresser that stretches its length was rescued from a home in a nearby valley that was about to be flooded.

Removal of hardboard ceilings revealed original oak beams. An architect that Mrs Nicholson met by chance on a train advised her to leave them untouched. If they were not stained or varnished, he said, then they would breathe and take on a wonderful colour. And they have.

The couple were fortunate in their choice of builder. Hywel Jones, who lives two houses down the lane, was on their wavelength, interested in retaining what was worthwhile in the original fabric. Ground-floor space was greatly increased by the addition of a conservatory that looks out over pastures and the River Tanat. Upstairs, pine-clad walls and ceiling in a bathroom extension reflect the wooden interiors of the original rooms.

A striking feature downstairs is the dark blue, wooden screen pierced by diamond-shaped apertures which partitions the living room from the staircase. Such screens, their architect explained, are a feature of the area. The removal of yet more hard board revealed a chimney recess.

In the evenings, rabbits play around the house and a duck sits on three eggs hidden in the bushes beneath the kichen window. It is all a far cry from the Collingham Gardens flat in central London that the Nicholsons first rented as newlyweds in 1952. The flat had been occupied by the ballerina Beryl Grey and was expensive. "We were living above our station," Mrs Nicholson says. "It was a fantasy flat." The weekly rent of £5 ate up a large part of the two advertising copywriters' salaries.

Soon they moved to a cheaper nearby basement flat, where they had to share a bathroom. Even this proved too costly, and they moved south of the river to Thurlow Park Road in Tulse Hill, where the rent was a more reasonable 23 shillings (£1.15) a week.

The Spectator columnist, Henry Fairley, introduced them to a newly completed block of flats in the Cut on the south side of Waterloo Bridge, where they shared a landing with a baronet, an actor who composed *The Little White Bull* for Tommy Steele and a property developer who was to marry Maya Angelou.

John Arlott, the cricket commentator, encouraged the couple back north across the Thames to a rented mansion-block flat in Highgate. "The £8 a week rent would have covered a mortgage, but we had no security to buy," says Mr Nicholson, by then a freelance sports writer, while his wife had left advertising to bring up their three boys.

It was a £2,000 pay-off following the premature collapse of a new sports magazine he was to edit that provided the down payment on their first house and mortgage in 1967, a three-storey Edwardian semi in Muswell Hill on sale for £6,500. Mrs Nicholson had to complete the purchase as her husband was away covering the Tour de France. It was, perhaps, fortuitous as the vendor received a better offer, but kept faith because he preferred her voice over the telephone to that of her rival.

The Nicholsons' decision to exchange city life for rural Wales was motivated by a joint desire to manipulate life rather than wait to be manipulated by it. "People make a big mistake when they retire and move somewhere else," Geoffrey says. "It is better if you anticipate it and move when you are still working."

They sold their semi in 1984 for ten times what they paid for it but, according to Geoffrey, they might have made half as much again if they had delayed a further three years.

Looking back over more than 40 years of nest-building, the couple have no real regrets, but admit to a few lapses in decorative taste that in retrospect cause the odd blush. There were the ubiquitous table lamps made out of chianti bottles and those DIY tables with shiny black legs that Geoffrey assembled in a moment of madness. Then, at a time when it was fashionable for every interior wall to be a different colour, they had Heal's paper on one side of a room and a vivid yellow paint on another. "It was all so Festival of Britain I can't believe we ever liked it," he says.

In their Welsh retreat, the two now both wish they had kept a foothold, however modest, in London, but friends in a similar situation assure them that the expense involved is prohibitive.

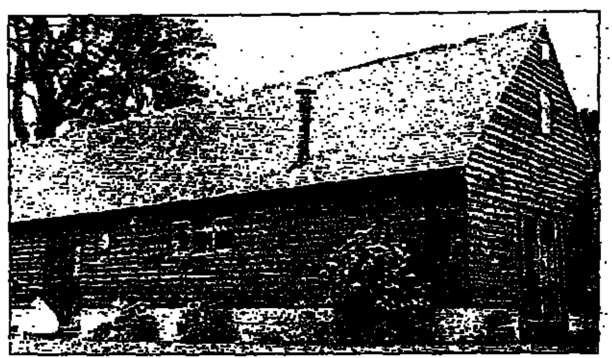
ALAN ROAD

BARN CONVERSIONS

Barns became fashionable in the early 1980s when buyers hungry for something different, snapped up cheap, redundant farm buildings for conversion. Farmers soon realised there was money in their old cowsheds and prices soared. It was not uncommon for a run-down barn to fetch around £75,000. By the early 1990s such conversions had fallen out of vogue, and prices dropped. Now demand for these spacious properties, often with exposed beams and vaulted ceilings, is increasing, largely due to a shortage of rural quality houses for sale.

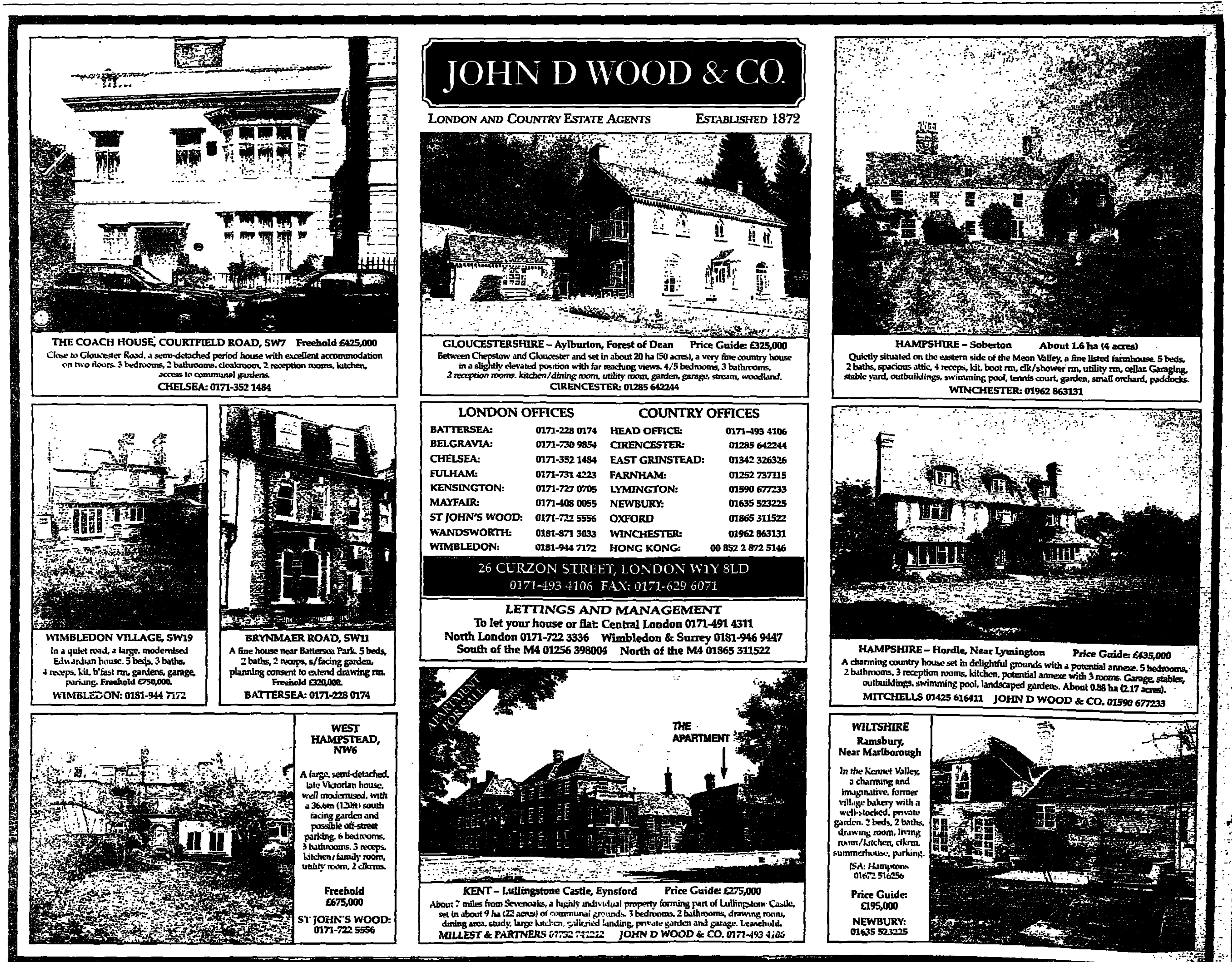
DEVON: The Malthouse, Holset Court, East Portlemouth, Salcombe. Converted barn in a courtyard, close to the Salcombe estuary. Four double bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room and cloakroom. Garage. **About £169,950** (Marchand Petit, 01548 857588).

WEST SUSSEX: The Glebe Barn, Wisborough Green. Converted Grade II listed former barn in three quarters of an acre of garden and paddock, in a popular village. Four bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, study area, reception room and kitchen. **About £325,000** (Knight Frank, 014835 65171).



KENT: Grooms Quarters, Hull Place, Sholden, near Deal. Re-built former barn in lawned gardens within a private estate. Three bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, two reception rooms, kitchen and utility. Open-fronted lodge with garage. **About £159,000** (GW Finn, 01304 612147).

CHERYL TAYLOR



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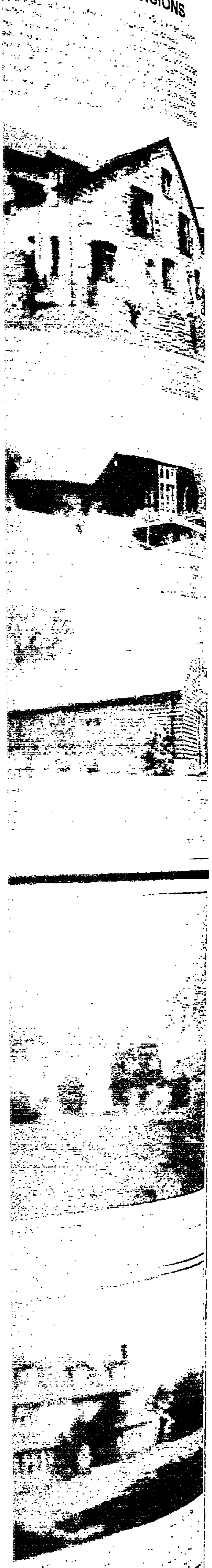

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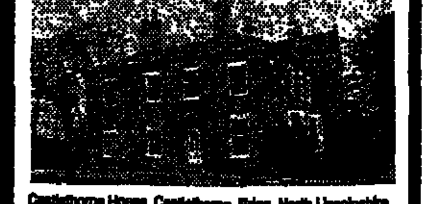

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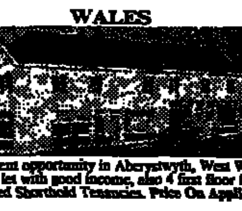

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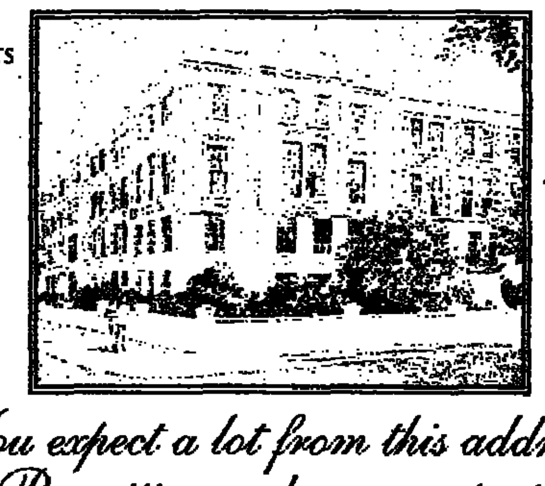

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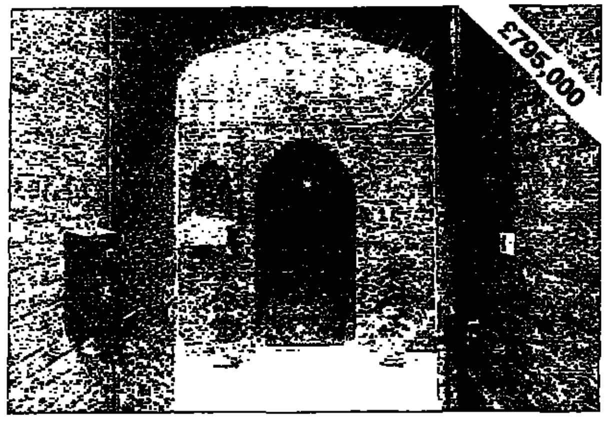
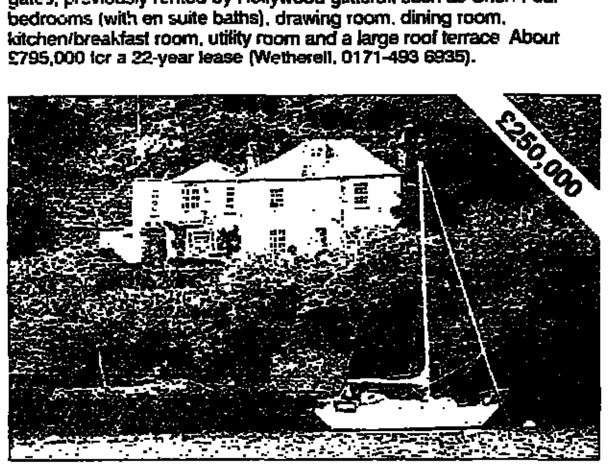
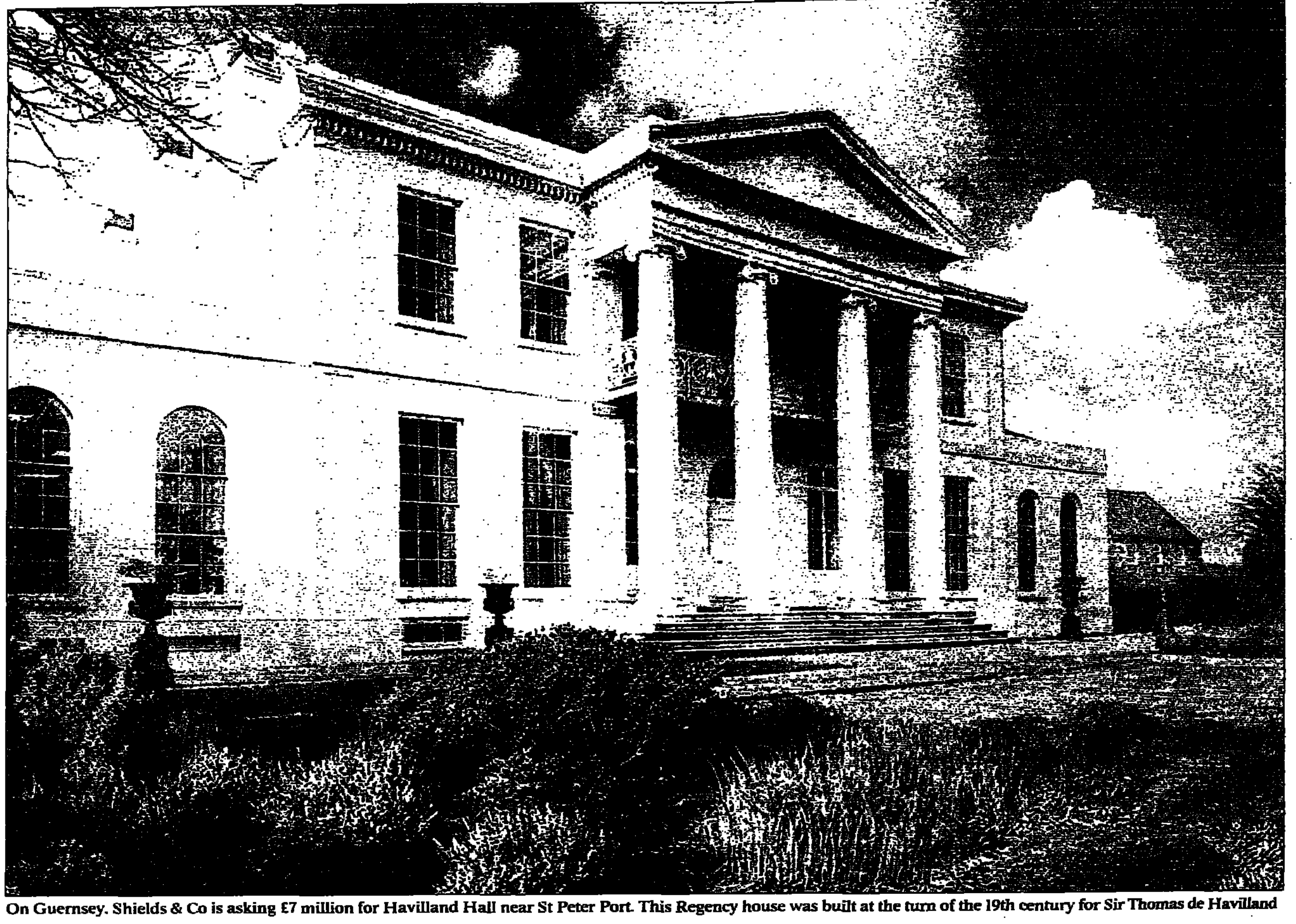


LONDON:
Berkley Castle in Mayfair. Grade II listed Gothic-style castle with crenellated parapets and turrets, hidden behind wrought-iron electronic gates, previously rented by Hollywood glitterati such as Cher. Four bedrooms (with en suite baths), drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room and a large roof terrace. About £795,000 for a 22-year lease (Wetherell, 0171-493 6935).



CORNWALL:
Crocknagodna, Restronguet Weir. This house overlooking Restronguet Creek and the Carrick Roads Estuary is cut off by the high tide which covers its approach road across the beach twice a day. Five bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, two reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room and roof terrace. Garden and mooring. About £250,000 (Jackson-Stops & Staff, 01392 214222).

CHERYL TAYLOR



On Guernsey. Shields & Co is asking £7 million for Havilland Hall near St Peter Port. This Regency house was built at the turn of the 19th century for Sir Thomas de Havilland

Where island life is none too taxing

Britain's offshore islands have much to offer those in search of seclusion and low taxes

Britain's offshore islands have a romantic appeal for house buyers, especially if you are wealthy and looking for seclusion and low taxes.

They range from the warm, sunny and sophisticated Channel Islands to the cooler, civilised Isle of Man. Property prices vary widely, as do the requirements for residence.

To set up home on the sought-after island of Jersey, with its mild climate and tax-haven status, being a millionaire is not enough. To meet the requirements of the island's authorities you must have at least £12 million in liquid assets that provide the Jersey tax authorities with at least £160,000 a year.

Potential immigrants must also have a residence permit, known as a 1(1-K), which qualifies them to buy a house on the island worth more than £750,000; but only five or six are granted every year. There are exceptions: you may have a skill which is needed on Jersey, or marry an islander, which is probably the only sure way to become a resident.

There is plenty of property for sale on this 45 sq mile island, but only 20 or so houses are generally available to outsiders. You might pick up a five-bedroom country house for less than a million pounds, but most cost a great deal more.

Income tax is only 20 pence in the pound on Jersey, as well as Guernsey and Alderney, and there is no VAT, capital gains or inheritance tax.

The largest property to come on the market in Jersey for years, the Trinity Manor Estate, near St Helier, has just been sold for around £6.5 million, through estate agents F Le Gallais and Knight Frank, to the chairman of a large City of London company. The pink stone 16th-century manor house and lodge, in 139 acres of formal gardens and parkland comes with the feudal manorial title "Seigneur de la Trinité" (Lord of the Manor).

Another prestigious property, La Valette Farm, a secluded 18-acre estate in the parish of St John on Jersey's north coast, is currently on offer at £5 million through Hamptons Gothard and Trevor in St Helier. The 16th-century main house, built of pink granite, has six bedrooms and five reception rooms, including a vast baronial-style hall with vaulted ceiling and minstrel's gallery. It comes with a two-bedroom cottage, two flats, a swimming pool and garaging for six cars.

It is easier to settle in Guernsey, provided you can find a suitable house. Only a limited number of properties on this 24 sq mile island are for sale to outsiders, about 90 per cent of the 17,000 homes being reserved for locals. Of the rest, only a few are on market at any one time.

Open-market properties are highly sought-after and prices are high. There is little left for less than £250,000, which buys a Victorian terrace house or a small modern house on an estate. Detached houses in good condition range from £400,000 to £800,000. Larger country houses in up to five acres cost around £2 million.

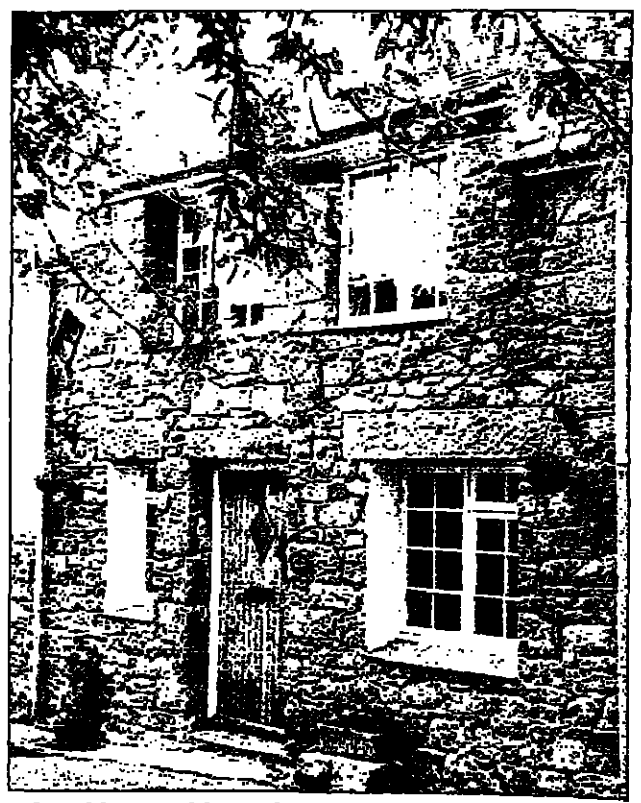
Swoffers, a local estate agent, has an eight-bedroom period terraced house in St Peter Port with sea views, in need of modernisation, at £295,000; or a fully restored Georgian town house, with four bedrooms at £525,000.

For £690,000 you could buy Fort Saumarez, a six-bedroom villa and annexe in 3.42 acres with a Martello tower, on the island's west coast overlooking Lihou Island, on offer through Knight Frank.

Estate agent Shields & Co is asking £7 million for Havilland Hall, a Regency house built at the turn of the 19th century for Sir Thomas de Havilland, near St Peter Port. Set in 55 acres of parkland, it has six bedrooms and six reception rooms, farm buildings, walled garden, paddocks and tennis court.

The smaller Channel Island of Alderney, a 15-minute flight from Guernsey or Jersey or 35 minutes from Southampton, is more welcoming to home buyers as there is no two-tier housing market.

Just three and a half miles by one and a half, with a population of 2,400, Alderney, like the other Channel Islands, is a fully fledged tax-haven. It has its own government, power and water supplies, emergency services and schools. There are no high-rise blocks and hardly any crime on the island, which has white sandy beaches and one golf course.



On Alderney, this one-bedroom cottage costs £79,900

The island's authorities will not allow outsiders to build a new home on a building plot but, if you've lived there for at least ten years, you may be allowed to do so.

Although property prices are rising, they are still much lower than on Jersey or Guernsey. A two-bedroom flat in a two-storey block starts at £50,000; traditional stone cottages and small modern houses from £75,000. Bungalows with three bedrooms, garden and sea views start from £120,000; detached houses with some land fetch upwards of £180,000.

One of the largest houses on the island, a seven-bedroom, stucco-fronted Victorian house in two acres, the former home of the late cricket writer and commentator John Arlott, recently sold for around £450,000 through local agents Bell & Co.

The same agent is asking £79,900 for a one-bedroom granite cottage near St Anne. You could buy a pretty terraced two-bedroom cottage, with a walled garden, for £82,500; or a detached three-bedroom stone cottage between the town and the harbour for £128,000.

Buying costs in both Alderney and Guernsey, including property tax (congé) and stamp duty, amount to 5½ per cent of the property value, plus legal fees.

The Isle of Man has attracted many wealthy immigrants from the UK mainland, including Nigel Mansell, who last year sold his six-bedroom custom-built house in 160 acres near Port Erin for around £1.25 million.

The 227 sq mile island, with its relaxed, virtually crime-free environment, and taxes on income at 15-20 per cent with no capital gains or inheritance tax, stamp duty or property tax, welcomes incomers from the European Union, who need no special financial qualifications for residency.

It is a well-ordered community, with its own National Health Service, as in the Channel Islands, and some good schools. It offers mountain glens and deserted beaches, with good fishing, sailing, windsurfing, golf and motorsports, including the annual TT races.

There has been no property boom. The market is relatively stable, though prices are rising as more people move there. Many of the newcomers work in the growing off-shore financial sector.

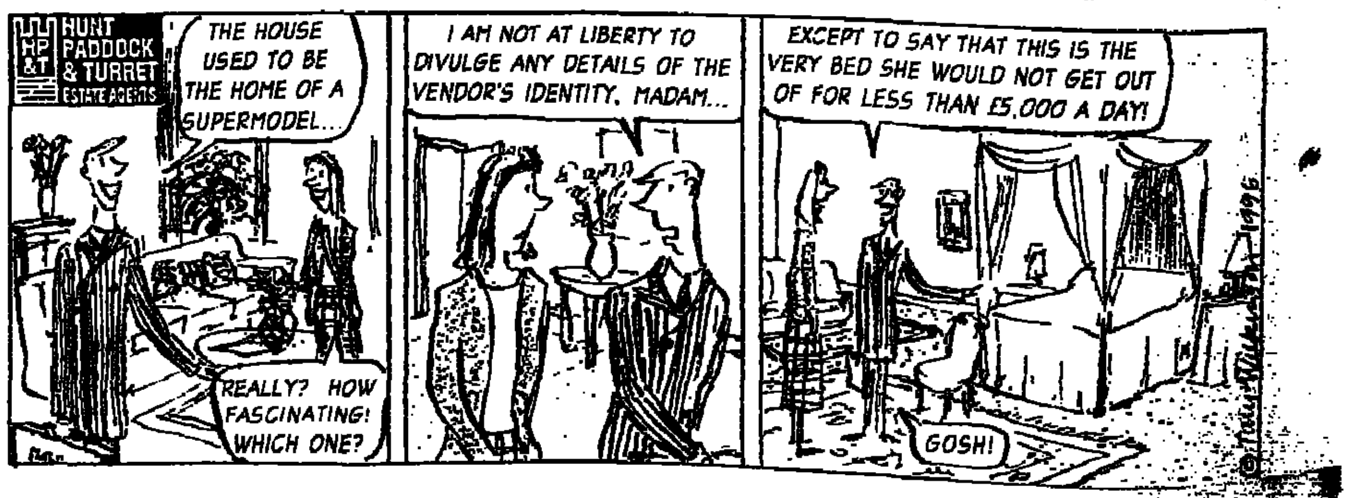
Property prices start around £40,000 for a two-bedroom flat in a low-rise block. A small modern semi costs from £50,000 to £60,000; three-bedroom detached bungalows from £70,000 to £80,000, and four-bedroom executive detached houses around £150,000. Large period country houses with land fetch from £500,000 to more than £5 million.

Currently on the market, through local agents Chrystals, is the Nunnery, home of Robert Sangster. The 18th-century mansion in 55 acres of park and woodland, with frontage on to the river Douglas, is for sale at £3.5 million. It has five bedroom suites, four reception rooms, nursery and staff wing as well as its own chapel, indoor and outdoor pools, stabling, two cottages and two gate lodges.

Legal fees are the only significant cost involved in property purchase on the Isle of Man, amounting to around 1-1½ per cent of the purchase price.

CHERYL TAYLOR

- *Jersey: F Le Gallais (01534 66689); Hamptons Gothard and Trevor (01534 20358). Guernsey: Swoffers (01481 711766); Shields & Co (01481 714445); Alderney: Bell & Co., (01481 822562). Isle of Man: Chrystals (01624 623778); Cowley Groves (01624 675494). Also Knight Frank (Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man): 0171-629 8171.*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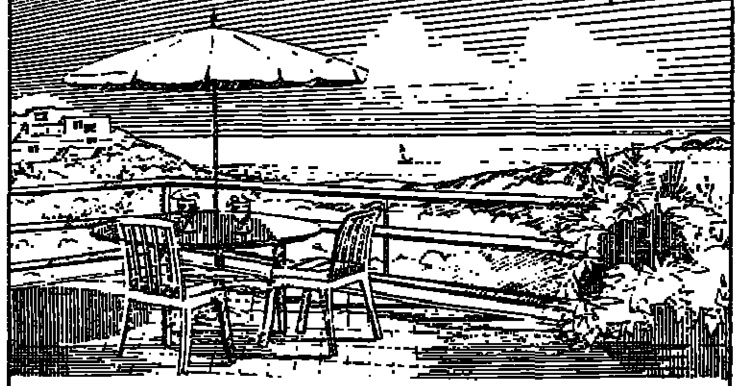

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PET NEWS

Broadcasting budgies

WHY do the residents of *EastEnders*, *Coronation Street* and *Brookside* have hardly any pets? asks Margaret Ferries, the Editor of *Pet Business World*.

"Mavis in *Coronation Street* used to have a budgie, but they had a storyline about it laying an egg when it was obviously a cock," she says. "One in every two households has a pet of some kind. So why are the soaps not reflecting this? I've written to the producers but they say that animals add to the costs."

Ms Ferries wants to compile a list of all pets appearing in soaps. If you spot one, write to her at: *Pet Business World*, 9 Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent TN23 IQN.

Get thee to a swannery

DISASTER has struck the swan-lovers of Polperro, Cornwall. Two swans, Fred and Queenie, had become firm village favourites and were fed bread and pet food. But when visitors joined in the feeding, a bunch of mallards muscled in on the bonanza. Fred responded by drowning their ducklings. Tourists were appalled and this week Fred and Queenie were banished to a swannery.

Foreign fish in fashion

SPRING has been a little late this year, but it has given breathing space to aquatic gardeners. Bob Clarke, a livestock buyer for Pet City, a pet supermarket, forecasts that sales of koi carp — a relative of the goldfish — will go swimmingly. He has shipped in 10,000 from Israel. A mature koi, 30in-long, costs £599; £199 for a thumb-sized baby.

JACK CROSSLEY

Taking the bounce out of Beau

If your dog has the upper hand, a professional trainer may be the answer

ROBIN NEILLANDS

Dog trainer Mark Thompson with some of his charges in Richmond Park, London. Beau, the author's black labrador, is fourth from left

Beauregard, our black labrador, must be the most handsome dog in the world. His coat glistens, his brown eyes gleam, his tail is a banner, waving in the park. He is the ultimate hound, except for one big snag — he bounces.

The problem is that we live in Fulham, west London, which is not the ideal place for big dogs that grow bigger every day. We had intended to head for Wiltshire to join the Aga set, but just as Beau arrived the bottom fell out of the housing market. So here we sit, waiting for a buyer and watching him grow.

He is ten months old and immensely good-natured, but after he had flattened an elderly gentleman and a small girl in the local park, it became obvious that Beau would have to be trained.

All dogs — but especially big, city-bound dogs — are happier for a spot of training and we soon discovered that dog training and dog support services can be found in most major towns. There are walking services for working families, encounter groups for lonely dogs, playgroups for superactive dogs and a huge range of training classes where dogs and their owners are taught the elements of good behaviour and control. These services can be contacted through the classified ads in the local paper or, more usefully, through the local vet. As we both work from home we did not need a walker, and as Beau has us and his chum Saffie, the Jack Russell, he is never lonely. What he needed was a firm hand.

Evening classes and training sessions in the park did not work. Beau is extremely sociable and every lesson degenerated into a romp. Then, just as we'd given up hope, we chanced on Mark Thompson in Richmond Park. He was sitting on the grass surrounded by a score of dogs of every size and breed, all perfectly behaved and all without visible restraint. If he could do that with assorted hounds, then maybe a miracle could be worked on Beau — and so it proved.

Mr Thompson is one of Britain's leading professional dog trainers, but he denies that he just loves dogs. "I don't love all dogs, but I get on with them. As for training them, I think it's a knack."

Hiring a professional dog trainer is like entering your offspring for Eton. He or she will first interview you and the hound before deciding when the training will start. This is usually at about six months, when the puppy has some kind of attention span and can retain the training. It depends on the dog but, given training and a lot of homework by the owner, a bouncing, lead-tugging, run-off-and-won't-come-back puppy can be transformed in about four weeks.

We enrolled Beau as a day dog and off he went to school. Four days later he was expelled. "He's too young," Mr Thompson said. "I will show you some basic controls and we will try again in a month."

For the next few weeks we worked on the basics: teaching Beau to sit at the kerb, not to leap on visitors, to wait to be invited to eat. Slowly, he became more tractable and a month later he went back to class.

Mr Thompson collected Beau early in the morning and brought him back about 4pm. The day began with a bit of socialising to work off the energy, followed by a couple of hours of individual training, then more play and then group training. A lot of this training was directed at us. We had to keep up the good work and see that Beau did his homework and did not resume bouncing when Mr Thompson was not around. These lessons depend on persistence, praise and reward, not on punishment or scolding; over the weeks Beau was transformed. He loved his lessons and became very fond of Mr Thompson, who seems to exercise some form of mystic control over the dogs.

Training at this level is not cheap. The cost is about £20 a day but the results are worth it. We have learnt to control Beau and life has become much less stressful. Beau will trot along quietly on his lead, stop at gates and at the kerb and — usually — comes back when called. Much of this training has rubbed off on Saffie, so we now have two happy hounds thanks to a lot of hard work, and Mr Thompson.

Now if we can sell the house and move to Wiltshire, life will be just about perfect.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

● *Mark Thompson accepts dogs. from all parts of the country and can be contacted at The Dog House, 8 Ballentine Street, London SWIS IAL (0181-870 3883).*

A Vet Writes . . .

Phantom puppies

Animals deceive us. Hamsters feign death if they are intensely cold. Birds do "broken wing acts" when a nest is threatened. Bitches deceive themselves, and us, by believing they're pregnant and behaving accordingly, when they're not — even if they have never had a close encounter with a dog in their life. It's normal.

Every bitch has a false pregnancy six to nine weeks after season. It happens because the ovaries produce a progesterone-type hormone — the one governing pregnancy and inducing milk production — after every season, regardless of mating, and the body reacts to it. The lining of the uterus thickens, prepared to receive the embryos, even if there aren't any. The udder and teats develop, and there's a general slowing down and an "I must take care of myself" attitude.

The signs are barely detectable in some bitches. Others show marked physical and behavioural changes, convinced they're having pups. They make nests, they take toys to bed and cherish and protect them. Hence stories of kittens being suckled by a Great Dane, and orphaned fox cubs being reared by a terrier. It goes further. I had a springer spaniel who collected day-old chicks during her false pregnancy until the mother hen took exception.

Most false pregnancies end after a few weeks without complications but sometimes things go wrong. The lining of the uterus can thicken excessively and lead to "pyometra" — a life-threatening accumulation of pus. Excessive thirst, enlarged abdomen, possibly a creamy pink discharge are signals that say: "See the vet quickly".

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Helpful Advice From Dr Vernon Coleman

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Having suffered from IBS for several years I know what a devastating effect it can have on your life and I do hope my book will be able to help you. You can try my advice without risk - if you don't find the book helpful then simply return it to me within 28 days of receipt for a full refund. See box below for details of how to order.

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By following Dr Flatto's advice you can feel better than you have in years. You'll learn which delicious foods to eat and which to avoid. You'll probably have more energy than you know what to do with. You should not change medication or your diet without consulting your doctor first. Share this special report with your doctor and it is likely you will find his or her support.

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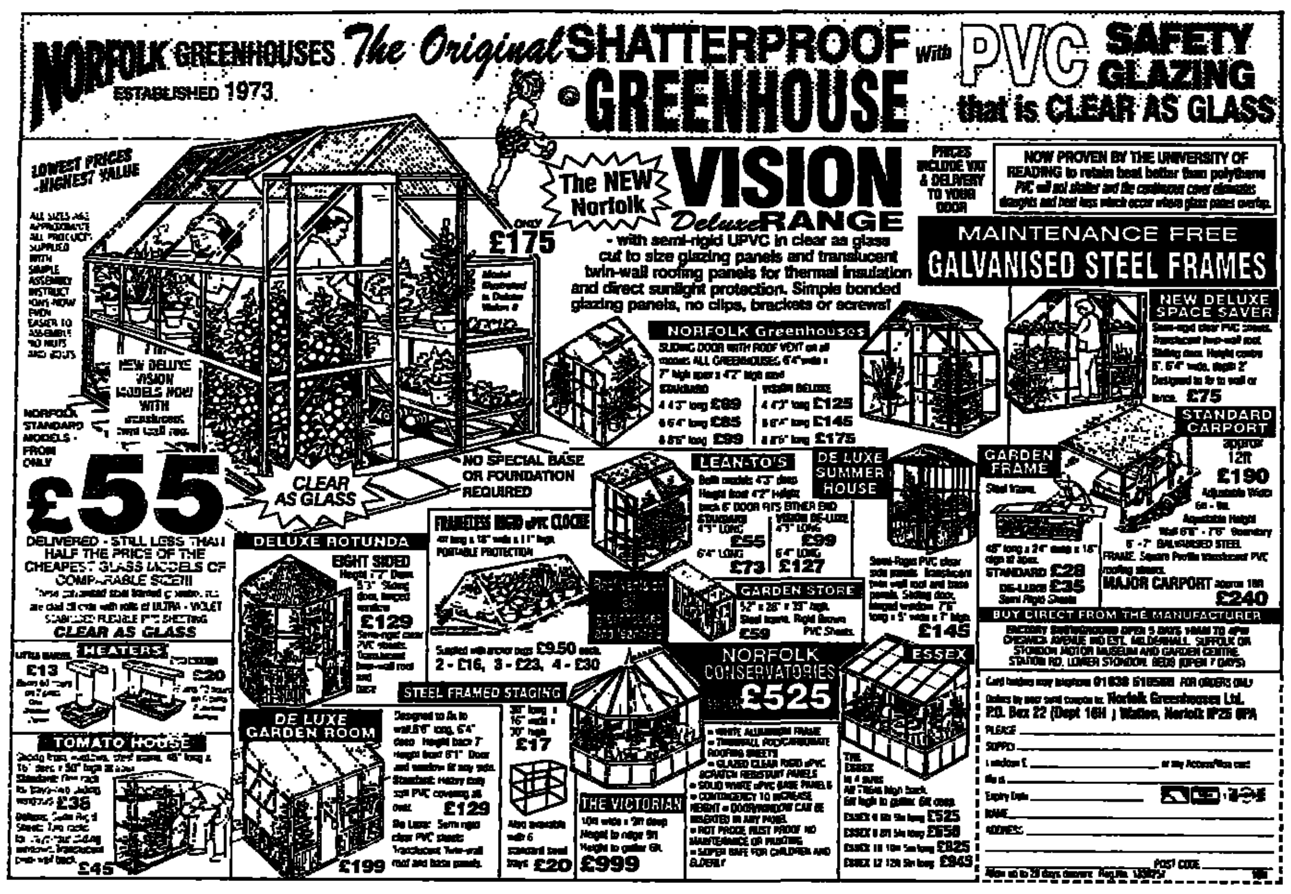
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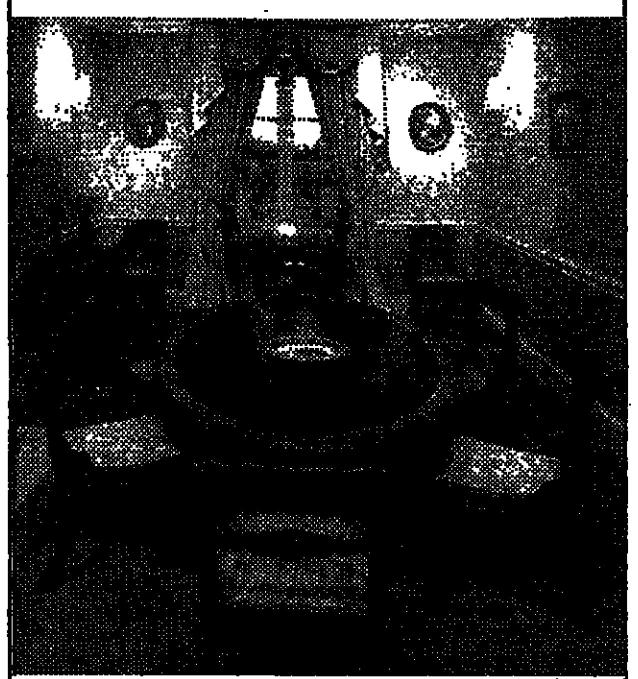

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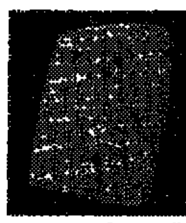

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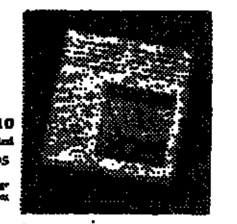

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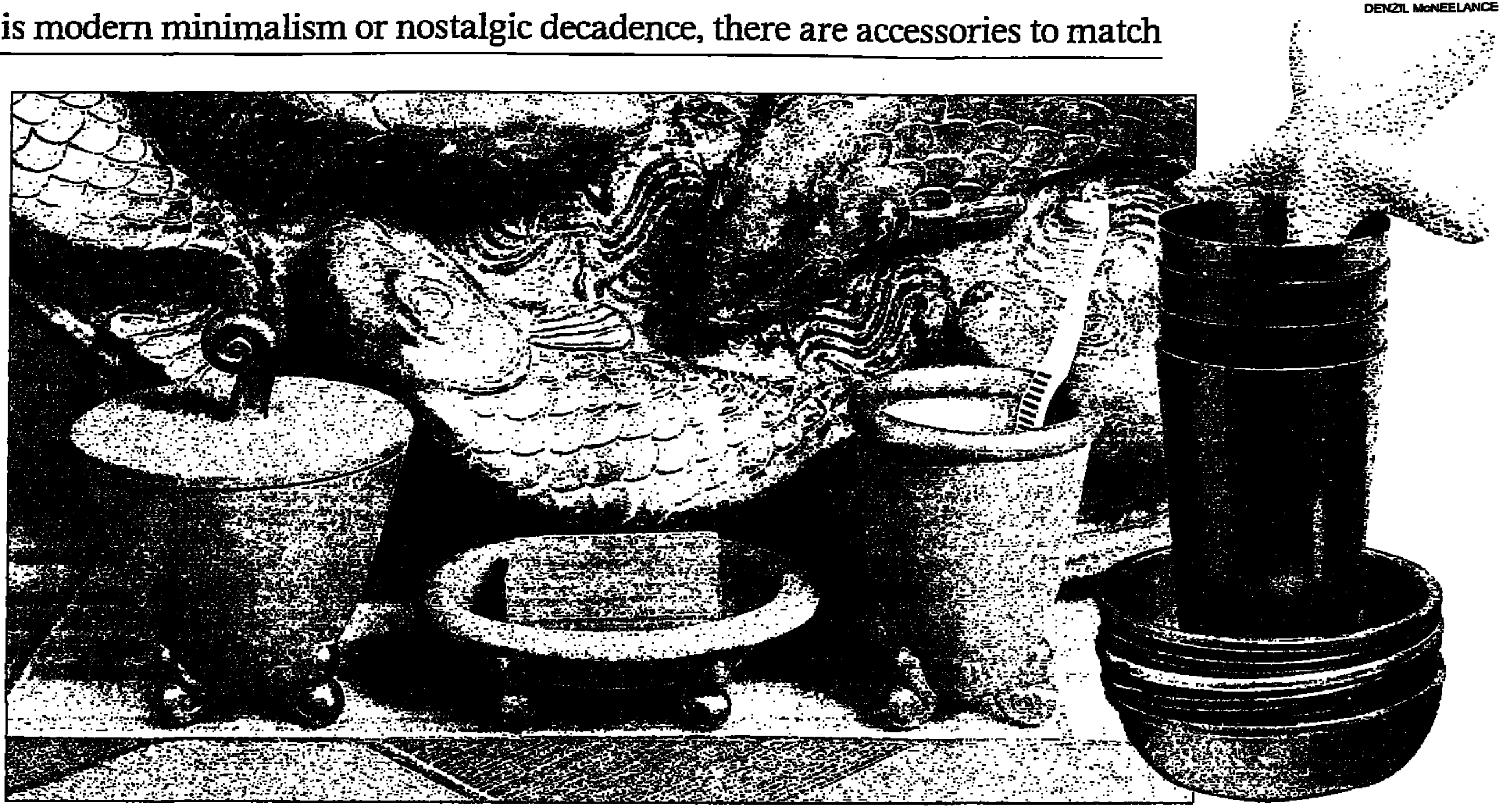
Whether your taste in bathrooms is modern minimalism or nostalgic decadence, there are accessories to match

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Splash out and enjoy a steamy soak



Above left: CVX mirror with silver fish (from £85). Above: CVX mirror with leaping fish (£345), Heal's pot (£36.95), soapdish (£22.95), toothbrush holder (£22.95). Right: Bombay Duck's tumblers (£6.75) and bowls (£3.25)

If I had spent as much time improving my education as I have spent in the bath I might have been a surgeon, a judge, or running a multinational company by now. But I don't regret a single hour spent in steaming, scented water with a gin and tonic at my elbow and a toe languidly controlling the hot tap.

A truly self-indulgent bath will cure, or at least ameliorate, a multitude of ills, from decorator's bodyache to a broken heart, and any bathoholic will tell you that most of their best ideas emerge from the fragrant steam. But the surroundings have to be right.

If the bathroom is one of your main decorating priorities, there are accessories to match your taste, whether modern minimalist or nostalgic decadent.

This year's bathrooms, if not white, are decorated in shades of eau de nil, sea green and Aegean blue. The London store Heal's has matching accessories for these watery shades in its verdigris-coloured plasterware with golden rims, handles and feet. Its toothbrush holder (£22.95), soapdish (£22.95) and pot (£36.95) have just the right blend of Etruscan and contemporary to make them work in any style of bathroom.

Heal's has a good one-stop bathroom shop for those uncertain about the style they want, with offerings from "nostalgic", crazed china in cream and eau de nil (from £4.50 for a bowl) to a sharp, modern set in white china with silver fish (from £9.50 for a soapdish), and Mediterranean white ceramics with blue and purple mosaic marine motifs (from £7.95 for a tooth mug).

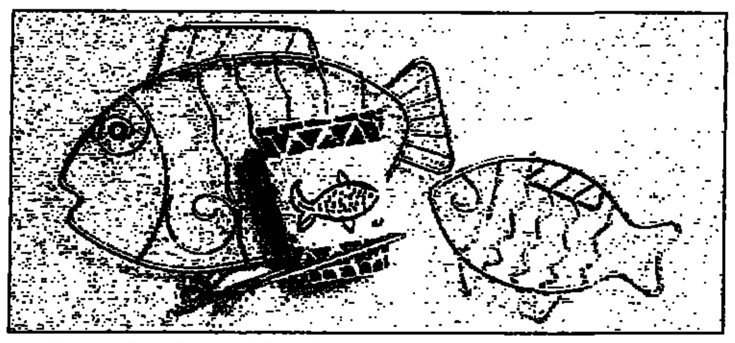
For a classical look equally at home with stark white or traditional decoration, consider the iron bathroom shelf — a hanging unit of three basket shelves, 21½in x 12in, £29.95 — from the McCord catalogue, or turn to the Bombay Duck catalogue, where you will find a graceful, curlicued, hand-forged iron soap stand (£11.50), a set of matching French hooks (£34.50) for towels and bathrobes, and a single shelf (about 24in x 9½in, £55) for your glamorous unguents.

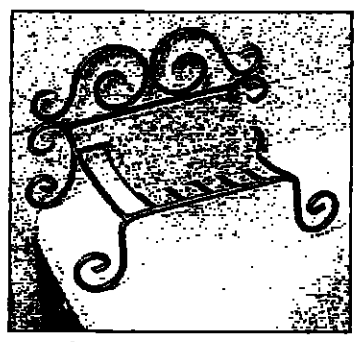
To jazz up a white bathroom without going cute, there is the Bombay Duck's anodised aluminium collection in bright, iridescent green, turquoise, magenta, purple, red or gold: use lidded cannisters (from £8.95) for supplies, and choose different-coloured large tumblers (£6.75) as tooth mugs; breakfast bowls (£3.25) for soaps and bath crystals, and matching small candleholders with star cut-outs (£5.75) to light your ablutions.

If you're following a marine theme in cobalt blue rather than greens, some of the best value accessories are at Bhs, which has cobalt glass tooth mugs with raised fish motifs (£7) and matching fish-shaped soapdishes (£5). Its chrome-wire fish design range is fun for a white-and-steel decorated bathroom, with a fish-shaped toothbrush holder (£12) and a matching lavatory paper holder (£12).

Bhs also has textured towels (the look of the moment) in plain white with blue and purple mosaic trims (bath towel £12) and in green with underwater motifs (bath towel £11) — match them with the Heal's mosaic ceramics

If you need a shower curtain to complement your cobalt theme, choose Habitat's Coral Reef curtain (clear with cobalt motifs) or the Seashell (clear with raised with shells and shellfish), both £27.50.





Above: Bhs wire toothbrush holder (£12), soapdish (£5). Right: Bombay Duck's iron soapdish (£11.50)

Bathroom accessory stockists

- ■ The Bathroom Catalogue, £2.95, 0181-665 0066.
- ■ Bhs, branches nationwide.
- ■ Bombay Duck, catalogue £2.50, 0181-964 8882.
- ■ Jane Cooper, 0181-446 8595.
- ■ Habitat, branches nationwide.
- ■ C.P. Hart, catalogue £3, 0171-902 1000.
- ■ CXV, 376 King's Road, London SW3, 0171-351 5875.
- ■ Heal's, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 and King's Road, London SW3, 0171-636 1666.
- ■ Czech & Speake, 39c Jermyn Street, London W1, 0181-980 4567.
- ■ McCord catalogue, 01793 43349.
- ■ Mildred Pierce, 33 Earlham Street, London WC2, catalogue 0171-379 5128.
- ■ Wax Lyrical, 0181-561 0235 for branches.

A touch of self-indulgence can be added with the executive bathrack (£79) from Wax Lyrical. It has two seahorse candleholders, a soap tray, space for two glasses and a shelf on which you could put a plate of canapès instead of the traditional loofah.

For the Edwardian bathroom, there are few things to beat Jane Cooper's brass-and-glass candleholder (£60), which hangs over the side of the bath.

This would look perfect with fittings from Czech & Speake's Edwardian range, made from solid brass with English porcelain or bone china (from £85 for a free-standing toothbrush holder).

If you're going for a more kitschy 1950s style, try funky fish-shaped tooth mugs (£18.50) from Mildred Pierce.

For bathroom mirrors go to CXV in the King's Road, southwest London, which is packed with the glamorous and original. Its 38in-diameter gilt mirror with raised leaping fish frame (£345) is spectacular. Mirrors with raised silver-painted fish on blue frames (from £85) are less Baroque, but no less impressive.

CXV has an eclectic selection of decorative objects, such as bronze conch shells (£45), which would store enough cotton wool for a girls' dormitory, and driftwood-framed cases displaying pretty shells (to order, price on application).

On a more practical note, CXV has ceramic soapdishes with golden frog handles (£14.95) and a pewter fish skeleton soapdish (£29.50) with matching square mirror (29.95).

To shop at home for everything from baths and showers to new taps and lavatory brushes, you need two more catalogues: C.P. Hart and The Bathroom Catalogue. Though both cover every style, including fixtures and accessories designed by Philippe Starck for an uncompromisingly contemporary look, the former veers to the traditional.

Think about it: you could make your choices lying in the bath.

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Now let us praise Gloria in excelsis

Mary Ann Sieghart is reminded of how much women today owe to the struggle of America's most glamorous feminist

FOR any woman living today, life can be neatly divided into pre and post-feminism. The label itself may be out of fashion, but this biography of Gloria Steinem reminds us women in our thirties how much we owe to those who forged a path for us through unforgiving thickets.

When Steinem was a journalist wanting to write about politics, she had to defeat the universal notion that women were capable of tackling only fashion, beauty and childbirth. "Would men like to write about hunting, shaving and paternity?" she asked in a 1969 *New York Times* book review. *It is testimony to* her success in rebalancing the roles between the sexes that men writing unselfconsciously about fatherhood fill the features pages of national newspapers today.

Steinem fought and fought again to change men's attitudes towards women and women's attitudes to themselves. Her crusade came at great personal *sacrifice to her* physical and, occasionally, mental health. She forsook marriage and children, though she would have *loved a family — but in her day,* marriage usually meant domesticity and passivity. And she was brutally treated by journalists who felt both *threatened and fascinated by* her combination of beauty and brains.

■ THE EDUCATION OF A WOMAN: The Life and Times of Gloria Steinem
By Carolyn Heilbrun
Virago, £20

For Steinem has been the glamorous face of American feminism, in contrast to the frumpier Betty Friedan or the dykes-in-dungarees radical fringe. Her allure was both help and handicap. It was impossible, with her as an example, to condemn feminists as bitter because *they were too ugly to attract a man,* but her beauty caused resentment among other women (notably Friedan) and encouraged the claim that *it had smoothed her path to* fame. Her typically caustic response was, "If women could sleep their way to the top, why aren't more women heads of companies?"

Steinem comes out of this biography as brave, loyal and generous as well as witty. *But then Heilbrun is a* friend of her subject and the biography is unashamedly sympathetic, only marginally this side of *gushing. It is hard to imagine why* someone so ostensibly kind and laid-back as Steinem should have been the target of so much abuse.

The moral, perhaps, is that a movement which tries to include half the human race is bound to find its members in conflict as often as they agree. It pained Steinem that the press always jumped upon these divisions. But it is to her credit that so much of what she fought for has now been achieved.

● *The author writes about politics for* The Times

Steinem: paid a high personal price for her fight for change

John Naughton on 100 years of danger, lies, duplicity and death in the name of nuclear progress

Fallout of an atomic century

A HUNDRED years ago this year, a French physicist called Henri Becquerel placed a piece of uranium on a photographic plate and noted that it became fogged as a result. The uranium was behaving, in other words, like a light source — *except that the "light"* was not visible to the human eye. It was mankind's first conscious encounter with radioactivity.

Five years later, Becquerel borrowed from the Curies a small glass phial containing radium and put it in his waistcoat pocket. After about six hours he noticed that it had begun to burn his skin — through several layers of thick, bourgeois clothing. It *was mankind's first conscious* encounter with the downside of radioactivity.

Since then we have learnt *how to harness it to cure, to* destroy and to generate electricity. In the process we generated a mountain of lethal waste products, some of which are unimaginably toxic and remain so for unconscionable periods. The "half life" of plutonium, for example — that is, the time it takes for half of a given mass of the substance to transmute into another element — is approximately 25,000 years. Yet there are about 1,200 tonnes of the stuff around worldwide and nobody, but nobody, knows what *to do with it other than* burying it in a very deep hole somewhere and praying that it remains undisturbed by seismic forces and the curiosity of future generations.

Journalist and film-maker Jeremy Hall had the smart idea of marking the centenary of Becquerel's discovery with *an account of the experiences* of people who are coping with the downside of the nuclear miracle. In the process he has produced an absorbing and troubling book based on encounters with victims of radioactivity, people who are struggling to solve the waste disposal problem and "whistle-blowers" concerned at the incompetence or mendacity of governments and *corporations involved in the conduct* or regulation of the decontamination business.

■ REAL LIVES, HALF LIVES: Tales from the Atomic Wasteland
By Jeremy Hall
Penguin, £6.99

It is hard not to become *enraged by this account of the* cavalier recklessness and rank dishonesty with which, over the years, the governments of all the nuclear powers have exposed their own and others' citizens to the perils of radioactive fallout.

But all that is heavy water under the bridge, and one of the nice things about Mr Hall's book is the way it transcends mere outrage. For while indignation is cheap, solutions in this area are likely to be very expensive.

What counts now is finding *some way of decontaminating* the mess that has been bequeathed to us by those who sought to exploit — for good reasons and bad, by fair means and foul — the power which first fogged M Becquerel's plate a century ago.

REUTERS

Mushroom gathering: French atmospheric test in the early 1970s at Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific — the history of nuclear power is a story of incompetence or mendacity by our governments and corporations

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Suffer the parents

FIRST NOVELS

■ DANCE REAL SLOW
By Michael Grant Jaffe
Bloomsbury, £13.99

■ CAREFUL MISTAKES
By Joyce Mandeville
Little, Brown, £14.99

■ ACQUIRED TASTES
By Simone Mondesir
Mandarin, £5.99

MICHAEL GRANT JAFFE'S *Dance Real Slow* is about being a parent, and the all-encompassing responsibilities *this entails, at a practical and* an emotional level. His story is unusual in focusing on the role of the father. His protagonist, Gordon Nash, a community lawyer living in Kansas, is obliged to bring up four year-old Calvin single-handed when the boy's mother, Kate, walks out, saying she is too immature to be a parent.

She then decides to return in order to find out what being a "*Mom*" *is all about.* After a few days and a bungled kidnap attempt, she comes to the conclusion that motherhood is not for her, leaving Gordon to raise his son with the help of lovable, child-friendly Zoe.

In his depiction of Gordon's relationship with his young son, Grant Jaffe gives a convincing account of the incidental pleasures and occasional stresses of looking after young children. *But it seems a pity* that in his desire to offer a sympathetic portrayal of fatherhood to offset the many *unpleasant stereotypes in literature,* he merely reinforces a new kind of stereotype — the "New Man", in all his *repellent smugness.*

The tribulations of parenthood are also central to Joyce Mandeville's *Careful Mistakes.* Jilly Parkhurst, a widow in her early forties, learns on the day of her father's death that her 18-year-old daughter Chloe is pregnant. Since Jilly herself was forced by her parents to have an unwanted baby when she was a girl, she is anxious not to foist such a *decision on her daughter.* Matters are complicated by the fact that her home is filled with a succession of priests, with whom Jilly finds herself *debating "pro-choice" and* "pro-life" positions.

The book is less than 200 pages long, but there is a great deal packed in. However, having so many points of view in such a short book undermines the otherwise careful *realism* of the narrative.

After these serious concerns, Simone Mondesir's *Acquired Tastes* seems all the more frivolous. Two friends — *glamorous television presenter* Vanessa and dowdy academic Alicia — are rivals for *the affection of lascivious Dr Fergus Archibald.*

When Alicia finds Vanessa and Fergus *in flagrante delicto* on the college high table, she decides to exact public revenge on them both. She seduces one of Vanessa's colleagues and persuades him to substitute a videotape of Vanessa and Fergus's sexual shenanigans for the tape of Vanessa's show.

The dialogue is obvious, the characterisation flat, but since the book has no literary pretensions, this hardly matters.

CHRISTINA KONING

When it is tough to be a teen angel

■ CAIRO HUGHES
By Millie Murray

■ FRENCH LEAVE
By Eileen Fairweather

■ FAT CHANCE
By Leslea Newman

■ THROUGH THICK AND THIN
Edited by Jane Waghorn
The Women's Press, £3.50 each

A SERIES of books for teenage girls, *Livewire* is currently being relaunched with a snazzy set of psychedelic covers. These four volumes are exercises in gritty realism; no midnight feasts and hockey matches here.

Cairo Hughes deals with the trials of a black girl adopted by a white family and their dizzying relocation to *London: French Leave* tells the story of 16-year-old Maxine, who moves into a grimy Finsbury Park bedsit and cannot afford to eat; and *Fat Chance* is the tale of bulimic Judi and her graduation into therapy. *Through Thick and Thin* is a collection of "real-life" confessions about real girls' traumas — foster parents, arranged marriages, new brothers and sisters, and — *my favourite — the horrors* of having a Tory grandma.

Given that the writers are all well-meaning women who long *since* said goodbye to acne and Take That, the realism is pretty successful. The general principle must be that girls want to read about girls like themselves, feelings they can identify with, environments they can recognise.

Newman: bulimic heroine

It is rather unambitious, of course, to offer familiar circumstances in which to find some recognisable truth. It might be, say, that the story of a Pennsylvania boarding-school runaway in 1951 has a *lot more to say to a teenage* Londoner in 1996 than the story of a teenage Londoner in 1996, if the reader and the *writer are prepared to make a* bit of an effort.

On the other hand, perhaps you will never read *Catcher in the Rye* if you do not start with something easier: buried in *Cairo Hughes* is a clear recommendation to read Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye,* in which a black girl with an identity crisis would find not only the solidarity she might find in *Cairo Hughes,* but also *the beauty and brilliance* which the latter cannot offer.

These are by no means great books. They offer nothing more than you expect, but they are honest, likeable and decent. If the same could be said of all culture manufactured for teenagers — why then, we would be on the right track.

VICTORIA COREN

Just not the marrying kind

■ LOVE JUNKIE
By Robert Plunkett
Quartet, £9

■ FIFTY WAYS OF SAYING FABULOUS
By Graeme Aitken
Headline Review, £5.99

LIFE is painful. Love is agony. Discovering a crucial fact about yourself or the people you adore aeons after everyone else has twigged is even worse.

Mimi Smithers, the narrator of *Love Junkie,* is a disappointed, sex-hating, suburban wife. She falls among a group of opera-loving men who go to Fire Island for the summer and keep amyl nitrate in *their desks. Having tried to kiss one of* them and sent him into a frozen panic that belatedly alerts her to his sexual orientation, she says to the reader: "I know what you're thinking. What's wrong with this woman? Doesn't she possess a working set of eyeballs?"

Even though her antennae usually let her down and her fantasies and generosity invite every kind of exploitation, Mimi gets there in the end and learns a great deal that she — and probably many readers — would prefer not to know about the New York gay scene in the early 1980s *just as news of Aids is spreading.*

Switching from Mimi's interesting collection of "faux tortoise *objets*" and the clothes she makes for her epileptic chihuahua to the filming of a pornographic movie and other filthy goings-on all over New York, *Love Junkie* is cruel, gross in parts, and extremely funny.

Rather different is the story of fat, short-sighted, *12-year-old Billy-Boy* in Graeme Aitken's first novel, *Fifty Ways of Saying Fabulous.* The son of a New Zealand farmer who says that if God wanted to punish someone, "He'd give them a wife like your mother and a son that can't play rugby", Billy-Boy inhabits a make-believe world in which he is Judy Robinson, heroine of *Lost in Space.* Told by a bullying school-mate that he is "acting the pouf", he innocently asks what pouf means and thinks the answer sounds just his bag: "Men who dress up in frocks and *have 50 ways of saying fabulous.*"

None of it seems to have any connection with his interest in photographs of naked men or the strange but pleasurable activities he enjoys with Roy, the school "freak". It is not until much later, after his unthinking rejection of Roy has led to an appalling calamity, that Billy-Boy begins to understand. Touching and sad, *Fifty Ways of Saying Fabulous* also has some very funny moments.

KATE HATFIELD

BOOK NEWS

How to serve up a winner

YET another award for *The River Café Cook Book* (Ebury). Its authors, Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers, have won the 1996 Glenfiddich food book of the year award. The best drink book was *Rhône Renaissance* by Remington Norman (Mitchell Beazley).

● *H. R. F. KEATING, creator of Inspector Ghote, has become the eleventh 11th winner of the Crime Writers' Association/ Cartier Diamond Dagger award for outstanding contributions to the genre. Other recipients have included John le Carré, P. D. James, Dick Francis, Ruth Rendell and Reginald Hill. Keating's latest novel is* The Bad Detective *(Macmillan).*

● THE controversial £30,000 Orange Prize for the best novel written by a woman and published in Britain — why a special prize for women only? — has proved even more controversial in its first shortlist, which includes Helen Dunmore's *A Spell of Winter* and Anne Tyler's *Ladder of Years.* "Obscene, brutal, boring and dreary drivel" was the headline on a *Daily Telegraph* report this week which said that Susan Hill and Val Hennessy, *two of the judges,* thought British entries were substandard, violent or obscene, or full of dreary self-obsessions such as *marriage* breakdowns. The others on the shortlist are *Spinsters* (Pagan Kennedy), *The Hundred Secret Senses* (Amy Tan), *Eyeless Eden* (Marianne Wiggins) and *The Book of Colour* (Julia Blackburn).

Preaching to the unconvinced

■ THE TOUCH
By Julie Myerson
Picador, £12.99

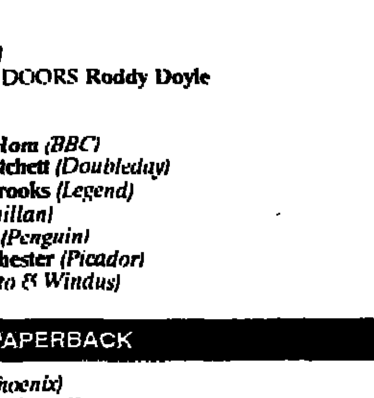
I CAME to Julie Myerson's *The Touch* with a certain amount of scepticism. Myerson writes a regular column for *The Independent* which is so smug and imaginatively thin that I found it hard to believe the same woman could produce a novel worth reading.

She has, although that does not mean that I enjoyed it very much. In fact, *The Touch* left me feeling thoroughly depressed. It is a bleak and strangely directionless novel in which the life of Frank Chapman, *fanatic preacher* and healer, becomes entwined with those of two sisters, Gayle and Donna, their brother Simon and Donna's boyfriend, Will. Frank lies bloodied and supposedly beaten on Clapham Common. Gayle, Donna and Will rescue him, and Gayle, a nurse, accompanies him to hospital, where she slowly befriends him as he recovers.

During his conversations with Gayle, Frank reveals himself to be a right nutter but he is convinced that he can heal Donna, who has a mysterious spinal disorder. Gayle and Will, who are almost more desperate than Donna to find some kind of cure for her, are prepared to go to any lengths, and they finally persuade Donna to see Frank, *with bizarre results.*

Myerson is clever to have chosen a wildly implausible situation in which to demon*strate how desperation deter*mines the actions of otherwise ordinary people, and sends them veering towards choices which are neither practical nor sensible but passionate and illogical. She writes well about desire, sex and the sad elasticity of many contemporary sexual relationships, but observation alone does not a brilliant novelist make.

It is not that there is anything wrong with the plot or the pace of *The Touch,* but it somehow lacks colour and definition, as if Myerson has only a hazy idea of what she is driving at, and even then her heart is not quite in it. She seems curiously disengaged from the narrative and the prose, which is a pity because from time to time she displays real flair.


Myerson: disengaged

This is not a bad novel, but it lacks conviction, and why so many people have made a fuss about Myerson I cannot quite see. I have not read her first *novel, Sleepwalking,* but it won her great acclaim so I probably should. However, if her second is anything to go by, all I can honestly, summarily, say is this: over-rated.

MARY LOUDON

The Times / Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	APPASSIONATA **Jilly Cooper** *(Bantam)*	£12.99	0	1
2	THE WOMAN WHO WALKED INTO DOORS **Roddy Doyle** *(Jonathan Cape)*	£12.99	0	1
3	CREDO **Melvyn Bragg** *(Sceptre)*	£12.99	0	1
4	KEN HOM'S HOT WOK BOOK **Ken Hom** *(BBC)*	£16.99	1	8
5	JOHNNY AND THE BOMB **Terry Pratchett** *(Doubleday)*	£9.99	0	1
6	FIRST KING OF SHANNARA **Terry Brooks** *(Legend)*	£12.99	4	4
7	UNRULY QUEEN **Flora Fraser** *(Macmillan)*	£20	2	3
8	WISDEN CRICKETERS' ALMANACK *(Penguin)*	£24.50	0	1
9	THE DEBT TO PLEASURE **John Lanchester** *(Picador)*	£12.99	3	2
10	PRIMARY COLORS **Anonymous** *(Chatto & Windus)*	£15.99	5	7

PAPERBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	SOPHIE'S WORLD **Jostein Gaarder** *(Phoenix)*	£4.99	1	6
2	GREEN MILE: TWO DEAD GIRLS **Stephen King** *(Penguin)*	£1.99	3	2
3	HIGH FIDELITY **Nick Hornby** *(Indigo)*	£5.99	0	1
4	TRAINSPOTTING **Irvine Welsh** *(Minerva)*	£6.99	2	33
5	THE RAINMAKER **John Grisham** *(Arrow)*	£5.99	9	11
6	ORIGINAL SIN **P. D. James** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	6	5
7	HEMINGWAY'S CHAIR **Michael Palin** *(Mandarin)*	£5.99	7	2
8	OUR GAME **John le Carré** *(Coronet)*	£5.99	5	5
9	ACID HOUSE **Irvine Welsh** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	8	22
10	SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS **David Guterson** *(Bloomsbury)*	£5.99	10	30
11	MARABOU STORK NIGHTMARES **Irvine Welsh** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	12	10
12	THE BLACK ALBUM **Hanif Kureshi** *(Faber & Faber)*	£5.99	11	2
13	AS IT SEEMED TO ME **John Cole** *(Phoenix)*	£7.99	0	2
14	FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS **Graham Hancock** *(Mandarin)*	£6.99	18	8
15	HEART SONGS **E. Annie Proulx** *(Fourth Estate)*	£6.99	14	5
16	LADDER OF YEARS **Anne Tyler** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	0	8
17	A RUTHLESS NEED **Catherine Cookson** *(Corgi)*	£5.99	16	5
18	APOCALYPSE WATCH **Robert Ludlum** *(Harvill)*	£5.99	0	2
19	THE CUNNING MAN **Robertson Davies** *(Penguin)*	£6.99	0	1
20	READY STEADY COOK **Anthony Worrall Thompson** *(BBC)*	£4.99	0	2

Any book from this list can be ordered from Dillons Mail Order Tel: 0171 636 1577 Fax: 0171 580 7680 DILLONS

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Fear and loving

GOOD writers for children of eight upwards can bring fantasy and menace into a story without sinking into the horror genre. Bad writers cannot. Anne Merrick succeeds in **Hannah's Ghost** (Spindlewood, £9.95), an insight into a lonely child's *imagination.* From ten-year-old Hannah's persistent "story-telling" grows Morphy, a sinister clown only she can see. At first frightened, Hannah learns that poor Morphy is completely controlled by her stories — and that she can only exorcise him by providing a happy story for him to live in.

Michael Morpurgo's **The Butterfly Lion** (Collins, £9.99) ends on a delicately ghostly note but also has a satisfying sense of bravery and constancy rewarded. This poignant love story of a boy, a girl and a lion torn apart then miraculously reunited in war-torn France draws readers of eight and up into a *first understanding* of the horror of war.

For younger children, **Why?** (North-South Books, £9.99) is an off-beat, wordless essay on war by Russian Nikolai Popov; and the adorable Smarties Prize winner **So Much** by Trish Cooke and Helen Oxenbury is now in paperback (Walker Books, £5.99) — everyone in a large Afro-Caribbean family wants to cuddle the baby *so much* that at last he falls asleep cutely in his cot. Not for tough guys.

We are seeing a *Babe*-induced surge in sheepdog stories such as Benedict Blathwayt's **Kip — A Dog's Day** (Julia MacRae, £8.99). Look out for a crow boom too, with John A. Rowe's weird but touching **Baby Crow** (North-South, £5.50) and Rafik Schami's **The Crow who Stood on his Beak** (North-South, £9.99). *My baby and* four-year-old both love Jakki Wood's inventive **Bumper to Bumper — A Traffic Jam** (Frances Lincoln, £8.99).

Lastly, Angela Wilkes has compiled the perfect couch-potato antidote: **The Amazing Outdoor Activity Book** (Dorling Kindersley, £8.99) which will last through the spring, summer and beyond with brilliant answers to that awful "outdoors is boring" whinge from seven-pluses.

SARAH JOHNS

هكذا من الاصل

The best car to have when your daughter breaks a leg

Page 10

CAR 96

Your last chance to enter our driving contest

Page 7

THE TIMES
Lease Plan
Company Car Driver 1996

SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

How drugs can really smash you up

The drink-driving message is getting through, especially with the young, but, says **Alan Copps**, the police need a new test for another problem

The search is on for a roadside drug test similar to the breathalyser because of a growing belief among police and motoring organisations that drugs, legal and illegal, play a far greater part in accidents than has previously been suspected.

Every driver killed on Britain's roads in the next two years will be tested for drugs as well as alcohol under a study launched by the Department of Transport in an attempt to gauge the true scale of the problem.

But police believe more urgent action may be necessary. Their concern has been heightened by research in Strathclyde, which revealed traces of drugs in 11 drivers out of 52 involved in fatal accidents. That survey was carried out after an officer investigating one fatal crash could find no explanation for a driver's behaviour. There was no trace of alcohol in his blood but a series of drug tests established he had been under the influence of temazepam, a powerful tranquiliser that can be legally prescribed but which is widely abused and sold on the street as "eggs" or "jellies". This prompted a re-examination of evidence in 51 other cases.

"It is a real concern. It's not just illegal drugs. We want to know more about the effect on drivers of prescribed drugs or even things like cold cures," said David Williams, Chief Constable of Surrey and chairman of the powerful traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

"We believe that, with young drivers especially, the drink-drive message is getting across. Surveys show a much greater awareness of the dangers. But we don't think the attitude is the same where drugs are concerned."

Seven years ago, the last time the Department of Transport carried out its own research, the conclusion was that drugs were a fairly minor problem compared to drinking and driving. But a number of social studies since then, as well as crime statistics, suggest that while alcohol has become much less socially acceptable among young people, the use of recreational drugs such as amphetamines, cannabis and cocaine has become much wider.

Earlier this year the Institute for Human Psychopharmacology estimated that across the European Union at least 4,500 road deaths and 135,000 serious injuries each year could be drug-related.

Although the figure for road deaths in Britain last year — 3,665 — was one of the lowest on record, chief constables are still concerned that a large proportion are avoidable. For example, tests show that 14 per cent of all fatalaties are alcohol-related. Acpo recently agreed that drivers involved in accidents should be routinely breath-tested.

The main problems in devising a similar test for drugs are the wide variety of substances involved and the lack of data for deciding at what level many of them impair a driver's ability.

Wipes are already available that can detect the presence of cannabis, cocaine and ecstasy in a driver's perspiration on the hands, or even on a steering wheel. But different wipes are required for each substance and even then it is a long way from detecting the presence of a drug to bringing a succesful prosecution. Under existing powers police would have difficulty proving that the level of intoxication was sufficient to impair driving.

Problems become even greater when it comes to drugs that can be obtained over the counter or on prescription. Even changes in hospital practice have compounded the problem. Anaesthetists have expressed concern about patients driving home after day surgery which may have involved a general anaesthetic. Such operations have become much more frequent in recent years as the health service fights to clear waiting lists.

Unlike their predecessors, which often necessitated at least a one-night stay in hospital, modern anaesthetics do not leave a "hangover" feeling so doctors are concerned that many patients are driving before the effects of the drug have worn off, risking injury to themselves and other road users.

Similarly with prescribed drugs such as tranquilisers and anti-depressants there is a fear that familiarity may dull the effect of warnings. "Chemists are often very good at reinforcing the warning that drugs may make you drowsy or affect your judgment when they first supply a prescription. But people may go on taking such medicines for years and simply forget the dangers," says Edmund King, head of campaigns at the RAC.

According to statistics gathered during the Institute for Human Psychopharmacology's study, which was carried out by experts in 12 European countries, 17 per cent of motorists involved in accidents (not just fatal ones) in Britain are found to have taken drugs. These included antidepressants (5 per cent), cannabis

Continued on page 2

BEWARE FUMES THAT CAN LEAVE YOU HELPLESS

Knocked out by a blast of instant fresh air

It was 7am on Thursday. I rolled out of my hotel bed and was hit smack between the eyes by a fast-moving bedside table. Dazed and confused I attempted to stand, but the cheap beige Axminster came speeding up to greet me, *writes Helen Mound.*

Two blows on the head in as many minutes, not a good start to the day. I wish I could blame my intimate drinking partner, Mr Jack Daniels, for my intoxicated state, but the real villain was probably the unlikely figure of Mrs Mopp.

Evidently my hotel had fumigated the room with an industrial strength air freshener after I'd complained that it smelt of smoke.

The fumes were powerful enough to send me floating around the ceiling with *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds* all night. In the morning the bathroom mirror revealed marshmallow eyes staring back at me. But here's the real problem — by 8 o'clock I was clearly not fit to drive. I cannot be certain, but I suspect my reactions were slow and my attention span short. Yet it was perfectly legal for me to hop behind the wheel of my car and float off about my business.

My experience might have been an unusual one, but there are a lot of other drugs that can render a driver unfit or impaired without much warning. Experts believe that over-the-counter drugs such as cold treatments, cough medicines and hay fever cures are responsible for hundreds of accidents, because motorists are unaware of their effects.

Edmund King, the RAC's Head of Campaigns, says: "Consumers need clear information and advice on the dangers of driving when taking medication. At this time of year, millions of people are taking traditional cold cures, and will soon be buying sedative antihistamines for hay fever and breathing disorders that are common in the summer. All these can affect driving."

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AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

LONDON

A12 Eastern Avenue, Wanstead. Construction of M11 link road continues, reduced to a single lane eastbound between the Redbridge roundabout and *High Street.*

A3 London Bridge. Major roadworks are restricting the north*bound carriageway to one* lane.

A41 Finchley Road, Camden. *Major resurfacing* between Fortune Green Road and Frognall Lane causing long delays in both directions.

A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks continue over the Lea valley viaduct.

A406 North Circular Road, East Finchley. North Circular Road *reduced to one lane* at various locations between the A1 Falloden Way and Colney Hatch flyover. A roundabout has been installed at the Finchley High Road junction.

SOUTH-EAST

M1 Bedfordshire. Lane closures northbound, between junctions 10 and 12.

A509 *Buckinghamshire. Major* roadworks on the Wellingborough Road in Olney, at *junction with Lavendon Road.*

A35 Hampshire. Lane closures are in place eastbound for roadworks in Southampton between the Rushington roundabout and Redbridge flyover.

A41 Hertfordshire. Roadworks *on the North Western Avenue* in Watford, just north of the Dome roundabout.

A249 *Kent. Major works* at the Stockbury roundabout west of Sittingbourne cause lengthy hold-ups between the M2 and Kingsferry Bridge.

A3 Surrey. Daytime *lane* closures in both directions between Compton and *Thursley.*

M25 Surrey. Two sections of widening work, with lane clo*sures and contraflows*, between junctions 6/8 and 9/10.

SOUTH-WEST

M4/M5 Avon. *Work* on second Severn crossing continues, *with restrictions* around the *Almondsbury & Aust* interchanges and also on the M5 around junction 18.

A4 Avon. Occasional temporary lights in place for roadworks in Salford at junction with Bath Road and Manor Road, affecting traffic in both directions.

M5 Bristol. Lane closures in *both directions* between *junc*tions 17 and 20 for strengthening of the Avonmouth bridge.

A381 *Devon. Long-term road*works continue in Teignmouth between Salcombe Dip and Inverteign Drive with occasional temporary lights.

A3 Hampshire. Roadworks and temporary lights on Southampton Road in Cosham, near Allaway Avenue.

M5 Somerset. Contraflow at *junction 23 for major road*works with southbound entry slip road closed.

A350 *Wiltshire. Lane closures* in both directions between Chippenham and junction 17 of the M4 cause delays to traffic in both directions.

MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

A605 Cambridgeshire, east of Coates, resurfacing and repairs between Gravel House and Goosetree with 20mph limit.

A1075 Norfolk. Shipham. Temporary lights between Dereham and Watton, with 30mph *limit.*

A6 Leicestershire. Major roadworks and contraflow at Lockington, between junction 24 of M1 and Sawley Island.

A14 *Northamptonshire. Delays* likely just east of the A605 junction at Thrapston due to *improvement works on the* layby.

M1 Nottinghamshire. Lane clo*sures north*bound approaching junction 28, the junction for the A52, for barrier repairs.

M6 Staffordshire. North and southbound entry slip roads on *to motorway* closed at junction 11 while work is carried out on the A460. Diversions are signed.

A4041 West Midlands. Contra*flow on Newton Road at Great* Barr in Birmingham.

NORTH

M6 *Cheshire. Widening work* continues between junctions 20 and 21.

M62 Cheshire. Westbound link road to M6 (junction 10) down to a single lane as roadworks continue at Thelwall.

A5063 Greater Manchester. Major roadworks and lane closures on Trafford Road near *junction with Pomona Strand.*

A610 Greater Manchester, West Gorton. Pottery Lane closed near railway station as major roadworks continue.

A630 South Yorkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow on *the Rotherway at Canklow*, between junction 33 of the M1 and Rotherham.

A6023 *South Yorkshire. Low* Road, Conisbrough closed at junction with Sheffield Road.

A167M Tyneside. Northbound lane closures on the Newcastle central motorway near Jesmond Road interchange.

M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at end of motorway at junction 47.

WALES

A550 North Wales. Narrow lanes and 40mph limit for *construction of interchange.* One lane closed southbound during the week between *9.30am and 3.30pm, and on* Saturdays between 9.30am and 1.00pm.

M4 *South-east* Wales. Work continues in connection with second Severn crossing between junctions 22 and 24.

A547 North-west Wales. Bridge repairs with temporary lights near A55 junction at Llandudno Junction.

M4 South-west Wales. Roadworks on roundabout at junction 47. *Expect queues* back on to the motorway exit slip roads.

A483 South West Wales. *Contraflow and lane closures* on Fabian Way, Swansea, from Elba Cresent to junction with the Earlswood lights.

A48 South-west Wales. Construction work on all approaches to Wychtree roundabout at Morriston.

SCOTLAND

A8 Edinburgh. Major roadworks affetcing all approaches to the Maybury roundabout.

M8 Glasgow. Lane restrictions westbound at junction 15 with carriageway down to three narrow lanes.

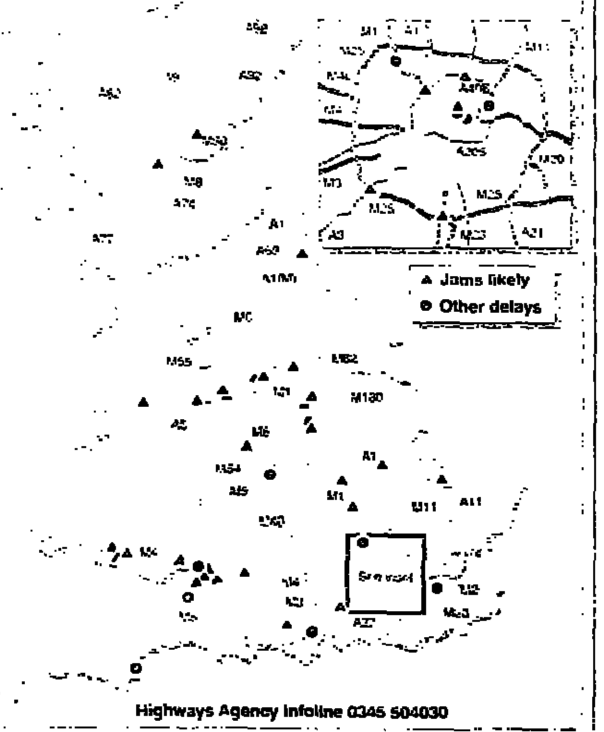
A1 Lothian. Roadworks in both directions just west of Bankton roundabout.

M8 *North Lanarkshire. Major* roadworks in both directions between junctions 5 and 6.

M90 Perth and Kinross. Major roadworks at junction 10 with lane closures in both directions.

A749 Dalmarnock Bridge. Glasgow closed southbound.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030

It's a single track with blind bends, cows, sheep and mud; the speed limit is 60mph, the same as for an A road

When accidents occur on the quiet

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

Three miles north of my *house is a motorway, one* mile south is an A road. Neither of these stretches of tarmac *holds any fears for me: both* are straight and well-maintained.

But the route to either main road is *single track. There are blind bends:* sheep, cows, backpackers, farmers, dogs, cats and pheasants are among the hazards. Mud, spread by tractors and cows (mad and sane), provides in winter a surface that would test Torvill and Dean.

In a dozen spots within a mile of my house an oncoming car is impossible to see until it is 20 metres away (that's around 60ft in old money). Yet *there is no law* to stop me driving at 60 miles an hour. The limit on the wide, straight A road? Exactly the same.

Rural roads are the most dangerous in Britain. The Department of Transport does not keep statistics for accidents on *rural roads specifically*, but in its figures for accidents on non-built up roads, the section "other roads" gives 12,375 accidents in 1994 against 7,966 on non built-up B roads. There were 33,818 accidents on non built-up A roads, but of course *these* carry much *higher* volumes of traffic.

You may well think that the key problem is death *on the roads*, and that in this respect motorways are a much worse problem. You would be *mistaken:* in 1994, there were 1,990 deaths on A roads, 455 on B roads and 746 on "other roads". Motorway crashes *killed* 135 people.

Neither do these figures take account of unreported accidents. Most of those on rural roads do not *involve injury: I can recall at least six* such in my area in the past year or so. Allowing for the vast difference in *traffic volume, this means that my* three-mile journey to the M4 is infinitely more dangerous than any*thing I face when I reach it.*

So it is plainly nonsensical to have a 70mph limit on a three-lane motorway and *only 10mph less on roads* where it is impossible for two cars to pass without one climbing up a hedge or bumping along a muddy verge. *Why is nothing done?*

The reason is publicity and perception. Spectacular crashes make *the television news* and bring out publicity-seeking MPs. "Something must be done" is their clarion call *and often, something is. Something* daft, usually.

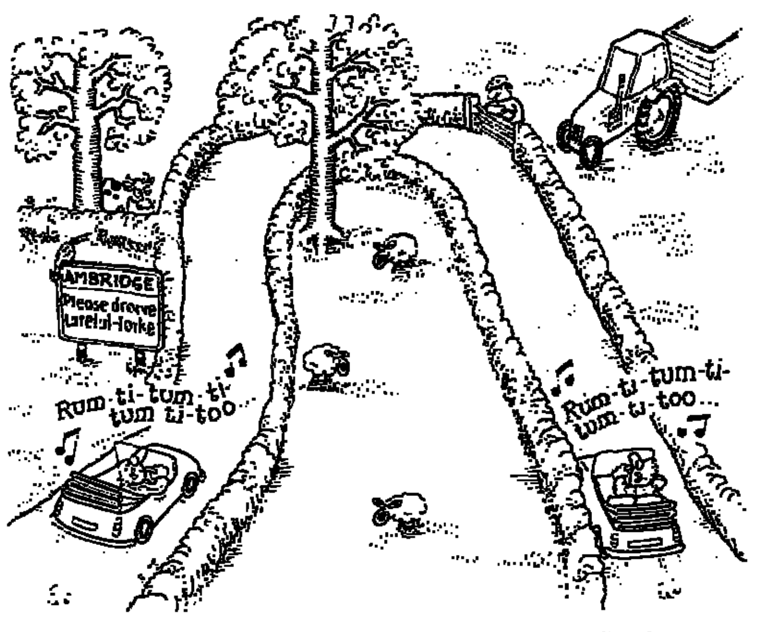
"Volvo Estate Hits Tractor" is not *the stuff of national publicity, even if* someone dies. Yet there are enough *idiots charging* about in the countryside to cause the carnage that the statistics reflect. All too often these accidents bring *no prosecution* because the police would have to show that a person was driving dangerously or carelessly. Travelling at 58mph on a single-track road *is not of itself an* offence.

Much as I am anti-legislation, an offence is what it ought to be. The Government *could easily amend the* Road Traffic Act on one sheet of A4 to impose a speed limit on single-track rural roads.

What should this limit be? I have spent several hours this week cruising around country lanes and reckon 35mph is about right. Even at this speed the stopping distance is about 95ft, too far to avoid an encounter on a blind bend, but let's not take this matter to the point where we would be overtaken by people walking their dogs.

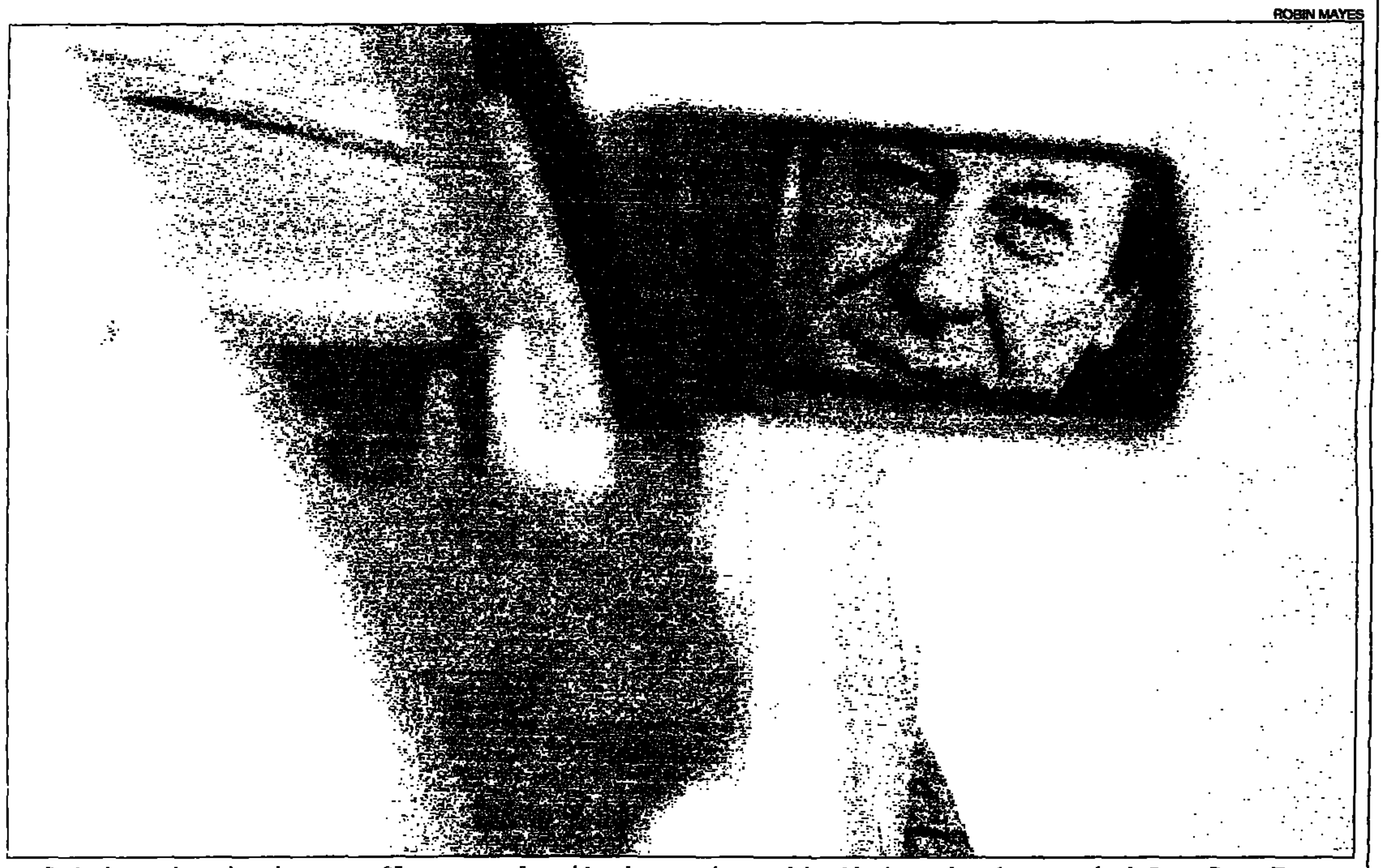
You will now tell me that such a limit cannot be enforced, and you are right. But I retain a touching faith that most people take notice of speed limits, if only to the extent that they do not exceed them by very much.

So I shall send a copy of these thoughts to Richard Needham, my own MP, a wonderful man who *would not do anything just for* publicity. For one thing, he is not standing at the next election. I trust *that his farewell gift to the nation* will be drafted on one sheet of A4.



Left to reflect on the cost

ROBIN MAYES



"On both occasions, the mirrors were 95 per cent perfect with a tiny area damaged, but I had to replace them completely," says Roger Evans

Tony Dawe on holes in the Mercedes myth

Roger Evans *has* suffered the fate of most motorists and clipped his wing mirrors a couple of times but, unlike the majority of drivers, he has been left with a *bill* for £450.

Evans drives an E-class Mercedes and the company is unable to replace parts of a wing mirror. It insists on replacing the entire motorised and heated mirror, however slight the damage, at a cost of £156.57 plus VAT and labour.

"It is a ludicrous waste of resources and money that the tiny broken part cannot be repaired or replaced and the whole wing mirror assembly has to be thrown away," says Evans, a London chartered surveyor.

While his story highlights a scandalous element of the motor parts business, David Price has a more expensive problem with Mercedes: two successive new C200s have rusted badly in the boot.

Their unhappy motoring experiences are among the *scores pouring into Car 96* after we opened our Cars from *Hell file last month and follow* other nightmare problems with luxury cars, including a BMW, a Porsche and several Volkswagens. "People have higher expectations from these cars and, quite rightly, are quick to complain when things go wrong," says David Walker, a senior trading standards officer.

Evans admits that his complaint is more irritating than appalling, but it will find sympathy with thousands of others who have been forced to replace expensive parts when a minor repair should have sufficed.

"The first time the mirror was damaged in a car park and I had to pay £225 to replace it. I bit the bullet," he says. "But the second time I decided to point out how stupid and wasteful this is. On both occasions, I was left with wing mirrors which were 95 per cent perfect with a tiny area damaged, but had to replace them completely."

The damage had occurred *when the mirrors on his E320* Cabriolet had been pushed forwards instead of backwards, which normally happens in a collision.

During a lengthy correspondence with Mercedes-Benz, Evans was told: "Owing *to the aerodynamics of the car* and the need to ensure that wind *noise* is not created by *these mirrors at speed, it has* not been possible for our designers to permit them to deflect towards the front of the car to any great extent."

David Regnard, UK customer services *manager*, added that the matter had been raised with Mercedes-Benz HQ in Stuttgart but "they are unable to provide us with a *solution for* the problem or make the damaged parts available separately rather than as a complete unit."

David Price of Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan, wants more than a free wing mirror after his problems. "I bought a new C-class Mercedes when it first came out in October 1993 but the boot soon became a complete rust bucket and I sold it back to the dealer in January last year," he says. "I was assured the same problem would not occur twice, and on February 1 last year paid £25,000 plus finance for a new C200 Elegance. It, too, has rusted badly and *you can see daylight* through the boot area."

He consulted trading stan*dards officers and called for an* RAC inspection, which reported: "The engineer was somewhat surprised that a vehicle of this build quality and age should have numerous areas of seam bleed and surface corrosion evident in the boot area."

Price says: "This saga of two new rusting C-class cars sold to the same person over a period of two years explodes the great Mercedes 'myth' that their cars are the most well-built in the world. The company has offered to repair the damage under warranty, but I would prefer to trade the car back and spend more money on an E-class in the hope that those models do not rust."

The company has declined to agree to a deal. A spokesman said: "It is most unusual for this type of problem to occur on our vehicles. In Mr Price's case, we have been able to identify the source of the *problem as water leaking into* the boot via the offside light unit area and can rectify it to *bring the vehicle back* to factory standard condition."

Continued from page 1

(4 per cent), antihistamines (2 per cent) and amphetamines (1 per cent).

"While many of the drug-positive motorists involved in accidents are also found to be over the alcohol limit, there is a consensus among pharmacology experts that the use of banned narcotics and some medication drugs when driving makes involvement in an accident twice as likely," the survey concluded.

Conrad King, consultant psychologist to the RAC, says: "Drugs have a two-fold effect on anyone who uses them. It *can be both physiological and* psychological. Either of them *can impair the user's ability to drive.*

"With stimulant-based drugs, motorists would actu*ally feel they were better* drivers while under the influence, but they would become much more likely to drive recklessly and dangerously. With depressant-based drugs they would lose any real anxiety about dangers on the road and would not be able to react quickly to changing conditions. With hallucinogenic drugs reaction times will be altered and ability to operate the vehicle will be*come erratic.*

"Drug drivers may feel like better drivers in their mind *but in reality their ability can* be fatally flawed."

Two years ago 678,500 breathalyser tests were carried out in England and Wales, of which 14 per cent were found to be positive. In the same year 1,000 drug tests were carried out — following negative breath *tests — and in* 90 per cent of cases proved positive.

Some American states known to have drug problems use a "urine bus" in which drivers can be tested for a variety of substances after random stops. But legislation would be required before roadside screening could be introduced here. With existing methods it can be several days before the result is known if tests are to be carried out for more than one substance.

The RAC and AA *support* attempts to agree a Europe-wide, three-tier warning system for medical drugs so that consumers are clear which drugs pose a driving hazard. *The scheme would adopt* a first stage to alert patients which drugs could cause mild side effects, *especially if taken* in conjunction with alcohol: a second stage for drugs that *should* be avoided before driving; and a third stage for drugs dangerous to take before driving and should carry a drug-drive penalty.

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While others talk about bodywork style and engine power, **Helen Mound** sends three reports from the interior

Fabrications of designing women

The seat covers for one in four cars in Western Europe were conceived in Derbyshire

DOUG MARKE

Rita Hickling, centre, and her Guilford team: "Each client has a different way of finding their ideal design. The key element is listening to the triggers in the image profile, such as young, professional, fun, sober"

While the man is discussing miles per gallon, torque and such mechanical matters with the salesman, the woman may well be looking at the new car's seats and wondering who chose the fabric and colour scheme: in many cases, it was another woman.

Based in Somercotes, Derbyshire, Guilford Europe produces fabrics for seating, headlining, door panels, sun visors and even parcel shelves. One in four Western European cars is trimmed with their fabrics.

"Interior fabric needs to echo the image of the car. In a concept car that means something futuristic, perhaps bold, but not alien, because it has to be welcoming," says Rita Hicklin, who, with Cathy Bass, Linda Fahy, Helen Scott, Alison Slater, Nikki Downes and Beatrice Frishkorn make up not only Britain's most popular automotive textile design team but also the only all-female one. "We haven't found a male designer good enough," laughs Ms Hicklin. Their portfolio includes designs for Ford, Rover, Nissan, Toyota and Skoda.

"Each client has a different way of finding their ideal design for a new car," adds Ms Hicklin. "Some have a clear idea of colours and patterns, others let us guide them with new designs. The key element is listening to the clients' triggers in the image profile, such as young, professional, fun, sober."

Designing a new car seat fabric looks like a lot of fun. The designers take inspiration from just about anything; "You can see a pattern in most things you look at — wrapping paper, photographs, even clouds. We put a small portion of our pattern idea on paper and scan it into a computer then we can enlarge shapes, reverse patterns, repeat designs several times."

Like the majority of automotive design, auto textile designing is mostly computer based. The team's most recent addition, Nikki Downes, who joined Guilford straight from college, can vaguely recall what pencils and paper are for: "We did a little design work on paper at college."

Using weaving software the designers decide which weave to use — tricot, flat woven, pile circular knit or pile woven — programme in the number of yarns and colours, and the computer takes care of the rest. A disc carries the information from computer to loom which then produces 20 metres of the designer's new sample. Last year the team produced as many as 2,580 samples.

Meanwhile, Guilford's laboratory tests new weaves and yarns for quality. Textile tests include an abrasion test involving a large wheel that rubs the fabric 50,000 times to check for wear; an age test under harsh light; a stretch and set test to ensure the fabric can cope with the tension when it's put on the seats; and a weight-bearing test to see what it can tolerate before tearing.

Once a fabric has passed the designers' and the technicians' approval, the team starts work on an annual presentation of colours and patterns which they show to all major European car manufacturers.

"We've developed a reputation for being quite quirky and original," explains Catherine Bass, senior designer. One of the teams' most novel ideas is using themes to present new patterns. It's Helen Scott's responsibility to put together this year's presentation boards.

"Last year we used films as themes. This year it's restaurants. 'Tea at The Ritz', 'Ice-cream parlour' and 'Oyster bar'. For each theme we make up two collages depicting the colours and images it inspires. Traditionally, we use an autumn palette. Winter is too dull and spring too washed-out for car interiors, and a bold summer palette is only suitable for a few hatchbacks and concept cars."

The Tea at The Ritz presentation boards display colours for executive and family cars, Ice-cream parlour colours are for youthful hatchbacks and the Oyster bar displays all the new colours and designs for concept cars. This is the first year the designers have moved away from bright colours for concept cars and are using soft pastel shades.

"We take most of our inspiration from the fashion industry, which dictates colour trends, but we're also influenced by the fabrics that are in fashion," says Ms Hicklin.

Research shows that flat woven fabrics are the most popular choice in Europe, while American motorists prefer velours, which is advantageous. "Flat woven gives us greater scope for pattern, which is what Europeans are demanding. A pattern in a high pile fabric such as velour is very costly, but US tastes are conservative and they prefer plain velours," explains Ms Hicklin.

Tastes may change, however, in the next few years with a new technology for printed velours: "We hope to have a lot more freedom to be creative with designs on velours using printed patterns."

Projects for the team usually span a four-year period: "We're working on interiors that won't be seen until the next millennium, but that doesn't mean we have plenty of time to work on designs. Clients normally expect samples within three weeks, so we have to move fast, finding the correct yarns, dyes and weaves to suit the suggested designs."

Like most creative types, the designers enjoy seeing their work on the streets. "I remember when I saw my first design in a car, I wanted to stop the driver and take a closer look," recalls Cathy Bass. "It's strange because we design around 10 samples for one derivative of a new car and once the client has made a choice we don't know how it will be used on the seats. Then four years later you suddenly see it in a car, on its own or co-ordinated with something else. It's quite exciting."

Fifteen years ago car manufacturers offered two interiors, cloth or plastic; now the choice is vast. Interior design plays a major part in the success of a new car. As Ms Hicklin puts it: "Motorists and manufacturers are demanding greater individuality, but aerodynamic properties are forcing new cars to look the same, so distinctive designs can only come from the interior, which is where we come in."

Seating problem 1: expert analysis of what's wrong

A wave of court cases against employers who provide company cars with seats that cause back problems is set to change the way fleet cars are chosen.

A growing number of company car owners now consider a comfortable driver's seat more important than the usual tempting trim levels. In the past 12 months at least ten cases against employers have been brought to court by company car drivers who suffer severe back problems caused by long hours in poor car seats.

Mark Porter, Vehicle Ergonomist at Loughborough University, isn't surprised that motorists are turning on their employers: "Any company car driver who spends more than two hours a day behind the wheel should be provided with a decent car seat that ensures a good posture, otherwise they will develop back trouble, which ultimately is the employer's problem."

Research at the university has shown that people who spend more than 21 hours a week in a car or drive 25,000 miles annually are at risk of serious lower back problems and likely to be absent from work for up to 50 days a year. Even those who drive less than 10 hours a week or cover just 5,000 miles annually will probably be absent up to a week each year recovering from back pain.

"If fleet buyers think they can't afford to invest in cars with better seats, they should look at what their company is losing in absenteeism for back problems," says Professor Porter.

The research also revealed that older drivers report less discomfort than younger motorists, which is thought to relate to the more expensive cars — with better seats and greater adjustment features — that older drivers generally choose.

MARTIN BEDDALL

Mark Porter: "Seats developed for comfort have been badly altered to look more elegant"

Lawsuits that come in fleets

The Vehicle Ergonomics Group at Loughborough University has researched car seating since 1981 and has evaluated more than 100 cars. When it comes to postural comfort and how car seats can be made to suit motorists of all shapes and sizes, Professor Porter knows all there is to know. Standing 6ft 3ins, he has his own problems finding a car that's suitable. "I've had the Porsche 911, which is great for long-legged people, since 1982."

He has thought of compiling a list of models with good and bad seats, so that motorists can avoid the cars that will result in back trouble and consider those that would suit their stature: "A good seat should ensure a good posture, rather than just feel comfortable."

His research has revealed not all seats that feel uncomfortable initially are the culprits, but some that feel great at first can eventually cause problems.

"We've found some aches and pains take 75 minutes to develop, so it's important drivers who spend a lot of time behind the wheel take a test drive that lasts at least two hours," he says.

In many cases however, motorists don't get a say in the choice of their company car let alone a test drive, which is why Professor Porter expects to see an increase in law suits against employers who put drivers in poor seats. He recommends legislation to protect people who drive as part of their job.

"For years ergonomics in the office has been taken seriously. Companies understand that a carefully planned workstation is important for staff productivity and comfort. Now they need to learn the same is true for those workers who spend the majority of their time in the car.

"Legislation would ensure employers had to provide each driver with a vehicle suitable for their individual needs as well as the demands of the job.

"It's still common to find seats being sketched by designers who have no knowledge of anatomy, physiology or the basic principles of seating and these sketches sometimes influence the final result. I've seen seats we've developed for high levels of comfort badly altered just to look more elegant."

At ease with your new car

- **ARE YOU** going to be sitting comfortably — however long the journey — in that gleaming new car? These are some of the points to check when seeking the ergonomically correct.
- **ENSURE** you can get a good posture in the seat before you consider how comfortable it is.
- **LOOK FOR** seats with a high degree of adjustability. Seat adjustments help to ensure that you can select your initial optimum posture and change it if necessary during a long journey.
- **CHECK** what sort of lumbar supports are provided. Your back will be your most vulnerable area.
- **TEST** the positions of gearstick and control buttons. Make sure you can sit in a position that means you can reach them without undue stretching.
- **IF YOU** are going to travel long distances or spend more than four hours a day in a car, try to arrange a test drive that lasts at least 75 minutes.
- **DON'T** tolerate any inconveniences such as offset pedals or a high steering wheel.
- **FINALLY,** remember that there will be times when you won't be the only one sitting in the car for hours on end. Take the whole family on a test drive to ensure that it suits everybody.

Seating problem 2: pain of a victim

KEITH WHITMORE

Joe Cooke: "Companies wouldn't dare force a secretary to sit in a poor seat"

Miles of discomfort

Joe Cooke, a sales engineer for Shell, is one company car driver who is debating the importance of a good car seat with his employers.

"I have to choose a Citroën Xantia, Ford Mondeo or Rover 400, but they all agitate my back," he says. "My old Rover 600 isn't on the list any more, but it gives me backache anyway because the pedals feel offset."

Mr Cooke is regularly behind the wheel four or five hours a day, and his back has become so painful that he often spends whole days recovering from long drives. "I've done 100,000 miles in this Rover, that's an awful lot of sitting badly, and I'm afraid a new car will give me more problems."

He decided to test drive all the cars that came within the company's budget and found his ideal car seat in the Alfa Romeo 155. "It gave me support in all the right places, the foam is a comfortable density and it has an effective lumbar adjuster." But he hasn't managed to convince his company that his back is a more important matter than their mass fleet purchases from Citroën, Ford or Rover.

"Companies that force their drivers into unsuitable car seats are likely to end up with RSI [repetitive strain injury] type law suits against them. They wouldn't dare force a secretary to sit in a poor seat, so why do it to a driver?"

Mr Cooke's argument with his firm goes further than just looking after his health though: "It goes without saying if companies make their drivers comfortable, they'll be happier and more productive. I know when my back is sore the last thing I feel like doing is working."

Professor Porter comments: "Only if company drivers convince their fleet buyers there's a problem, and they then put pressure on the car manufacturers, will the situation change. Fifteen years ago the motor industry didn't believe safety would be an important issue for car sales, now the same is true of ergonomics.

"The problem is that ergonomics is always the last feature to be considered by manufacturers. Car design starts with exterior styling and seat designers have little or no say regarding headroom, legroom or driving package. They have to make the best of what they get. Which means the steering column, pedals and gearknob are put wherever there's space, and the legroom is whatever is left over."

His ambition is to work on a car that is ergonomic-led. "It would be great to produce a car that considers exactly how old, what size and what profession the intended motorist will be, so that the ideal driving position, interior space and adjustable features can be applied."

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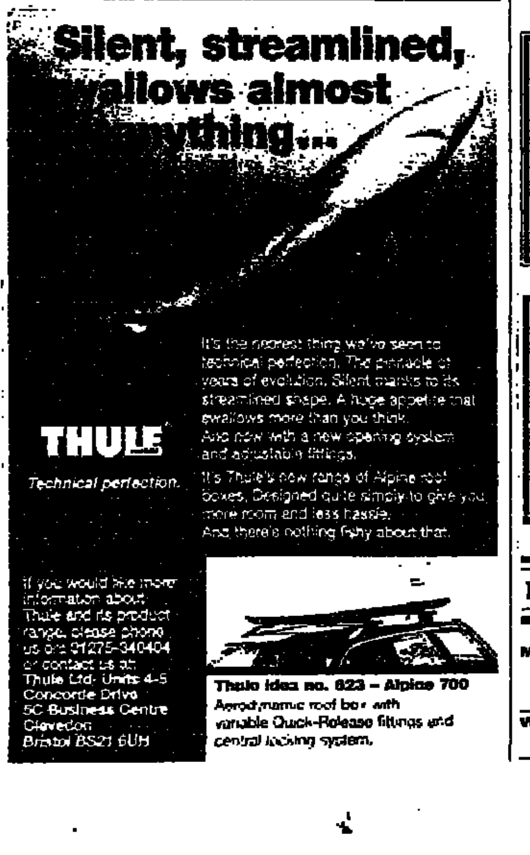

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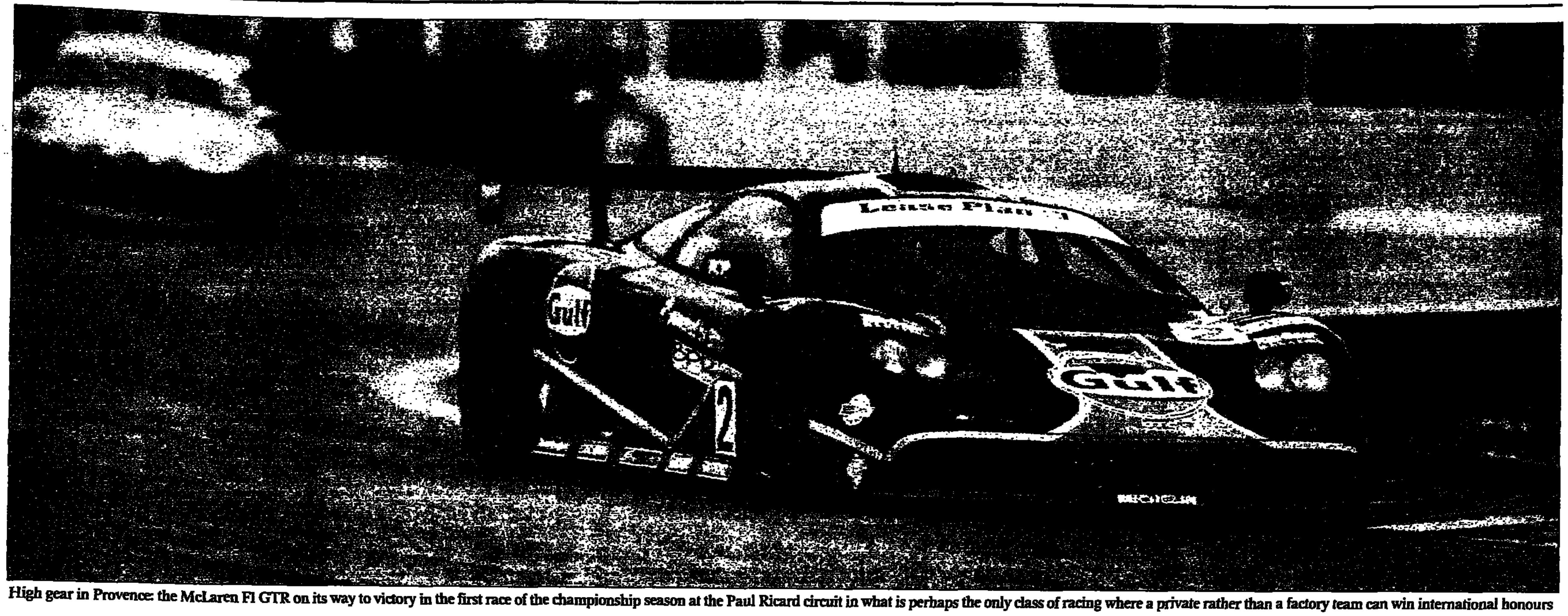


High gear in Provence: the McLaren F1 GTR on its way to victory in the first race of the championship season at the Paul Ricard circuit in what is perhaps the only class of racing where a private rather than a factory team can win international honours

Big Mac to go; at high speed

Fresh, fast and the stuff of fantasy. Simon Hacker sees (and hears) the McLaren F1 GTR demonstrate its powers of endurance on the track

The Big Mac is back — not the beleaguered beefy variety, but one of Britain's most sexy and successful exports. The 1996 McLaren F1 GTR is the latest supermodel to step out on the sports car racing catwalk, fresh from the gym, lighter, faster and packing 6064cc of pure BMW V12 fantasy.

The winning car from last year has been refined for this year's clutch of road users and badged as the LM to mark its victory at Le Mans, but McLaren still needed to produce a car to build on last year's coups on the European circuits. This is it: as close to Formula 1 as mortal sports cars can get. The LM offers 636 brake horse power; this car has 667, although new air intake restrictions rein the power in to 630, with maximum revs at 6,700rpm.

With three rounds of the BPR Global Endurance GT championship gone, McLaren is back where it belongs at the head of the field. The Gulf Racing team achieved a one-two in last weekend's four-hour round at Spain's Jarama circuit to add to its victory in the first race at the Paul Ricard circuit in France. Another McLaren won the intervening round at Monza, Italy.

That opening round was the 1996 GTR's first proper road test, in the experienced hands of Gulf Racing's James Weaver, 41, and Ray Bellm, 45. But it was no occasion for the faint-hearted. The team had just a week to get the car ready while the Ferrari and Porsche teams were buffing their fiercest hardware.

Endurance racing, with its season including the legendary 24-hours at Le Mans in June is enjoying renewed popularity this year, with the stalwarts Ferrari and Porsche battling it out with McLaren for the honours. It is perhaps the only class of racing where a private rather than a factory team stands a chance of taking international honours.

Its folklore, built up since the days of the Bentley boys, speaks of the smell of the grease, the whiff of benzene and Bollinger and the pain of prolonged battle, dulled only by the promise of victory. But modern motors have made it a lot more businesslike.

When I joined Weaver and Bellm just hours before the first race for their discussion of tactics, the mood was as relaxed and convivial as Sunday tea with the vicar.

Bellm studies the circuit as we might dispassionately contemplate a weekend drive to the seaside. "Traffic is the problem here," he says, "with 51 cars on the grid. There will be 30 top-flight drivers. Some of the others are, to put it politely, a liability."

Weaver agrees: "This isn't about 20 laps and knocking people off; it's technical, and any minor error can be very costly — there are no easy ways to win. Two of the Porsches I know I can trust; professional drivers allow themselves to be overtaken and not lose time, but an amateur panics and is likely to do something daft to stop you getting past."

Both have a surgeon's eye for what is required. At the Signes bend, which finishes the longest straight stretch in the series, they have to lose 60mph in 70 yards. Maximum speed here, says Bellm, is about 180mph. Some braking.

Last year's frustrations for Gulf at Le Mans frequently remind them that luck plays a huge role. Perhaps that's why, despite their technological edge, the drivers retain the odd superstitution. Weaver refuses to wear anything but his own self-designed helmet and Bellm has a pair of "winning" gloves he just can't let go of. "Seriously though, when you're sitting in the car, you have to go with your gut feelings," says Weaver, "if you don't want the team's choice of tyre, you don't have them."

Still less is left to luck when it comes to food. From a mobile canteen that spends the year crawling from circuit to circuit, Charles and Lucie Skipwith run the catering and hospitality for the entire team. And while it is their responsibility to see that Gulf guests dine in style, the real priority is to the boys in the pits.

"The team gets through a massive amount of food — they need big portions and they need it now," says Lucie. On the night before the race, the team's success in rebuilding its second car, the 1995 McLaren, damaged that day during practice, owed much to Lucie's cottage pie, served piping hot among the socket sets, at 1.30am. No such indulgence for the drivers though: "It's very important that they are kept on a high-energy diet for 24 hours before the race . . . potatoes, pasta, not much meat — and absolutely no alcohol."

Enthusiasts will tell you about the cars, about the women, about the excitement of it all, but what they never let you in on is that these cars produce a cacophony of sound loud enough to make your ears bleed. Come to a BPR race and forget your glasses, your picnic hamper but forget your earplugs and you're flirting with total deafness.

At the Signes bend, where every sinew of the cars pulls back to snapping point, the sound hits you like a glass wall. Here you realise the McLaren's secret trump card. The GTR's rump may be designed to do all sorts of clever things with downforce, but it has the physiognomy of a leering gorilla. Steering the nose of an F40 past these deep-set flashing red pupils must be too forbidding to contemplate.

Evidently it was. After a nudge from behind, Gulf Racing lost its 1995 car, piloted by Frenchman Pierre-Henri Raphanel and Lindsay Owen-Jones, who in his spare time runs French multi-national L'Oreal. But 2½ hours into the event, with Bellm now at the wheel, the 1996 car grabbed a three-second lead.

It might not sound like much, and given the complications of pit-stop delays, the lead is hardly discernible from the paddock. Throughout the four-hour drama the pit crew show impeccable discipline, punctuated only by feverish bouts of activity as the cars limp in for rubber and oil. Their work area is a carpeted lab. All is kept as it should be under the eye of operations director Michael Cane. His stern professionalism may have earned him the nickname Dr Death, but there is a tinge of affection in the term: everyone agrees that a misplaced air-hose is a capital offence.

At the podium, and after so much slog, comes the big anticlimax. There's not a drop of champagne in sight. The French, I'm told, never allow it at their events. The only real show of emotion comes with Bellm's decision to throw his team-liveried cap into the crowd. Backstage BPR presents the winning duo with some Provencal glassware: there are no big cash prizes to be won.

In the second round, Gulf was able to field two 1996 GTRs, but a fuel leak prevented the Lindsay Owen-Jones/Pierre-Henri Raphanel car from starting and the Bellm/Weaver car was in a challenging third position when it was eliminated after a close encounter with the eventual winner, another privately entered McLaren driven by John Nielsen for the West racing team.

The third round at Monza last weekend really showed the excitement of these races, an early phase of Ferrari dominance giving way to an all-McLaren battle with both Gulf cars initially chasing the Harrods-entered car driven by James Wallace.

Tyre strategy made the difference, with Weaver getting past the Harrods car with just five minutes of the race remaining. In the closing moments Wallace was forced off the track after a collision involving a pursuing Ferrari, which allowed Raphanel to take second place.

As the true professional Weaver, sums up the excitement of endurance racing: "You know what the best thing about all this is? You get paid for it, too!"

WIN A TRIP TO THE DRAMA OF LE MANS

THE LE MANS 24-hour Endurance Race is one of the most prestigious in the racing calendar anywhere in the world, an event which has captured the imagination of enthusiasts for decades because of its thrilling atmosphere.

NOW *Car 96* can give two readers the chance to sample the excitement of Le Mans — with its 200mph Mulsanne Straight, the noise of the Gulf McLaren cars and the dramatic night driving — all thanks to Privilege Insurance.

THE LEEDS-based insurer is sponsoring the eight-race BRDC GT Championship and will have a mobile facility at each circuit ready to give insurance quotes to motorists anxious to reduce their premiums, particularly those with high-performance cars who have struggled to cope with soaring costs over the past few years. Privilege specialises in the difficult-to-insure and motorists can also call 0113-2925555 for a free telephone quote on any make or model.

PRIVILEGE has promised to fly our winner and a partner out to Paris, departing Friday, June 14, where there will be a car for them to drive to the picturesque town of Le Mans and three-star hotel accommodation for three nights.

THERE ARE tickets to the Grandstand and pits, plus lunch and dinner at the circuit during the 24-hours of the race and £200 of spending money. Privilege is also providing three pairs of tickets to any British GT race, which includes events at Silverstone and Brands Hatch, for runners-up.

TO ENTER, answer these three questions:

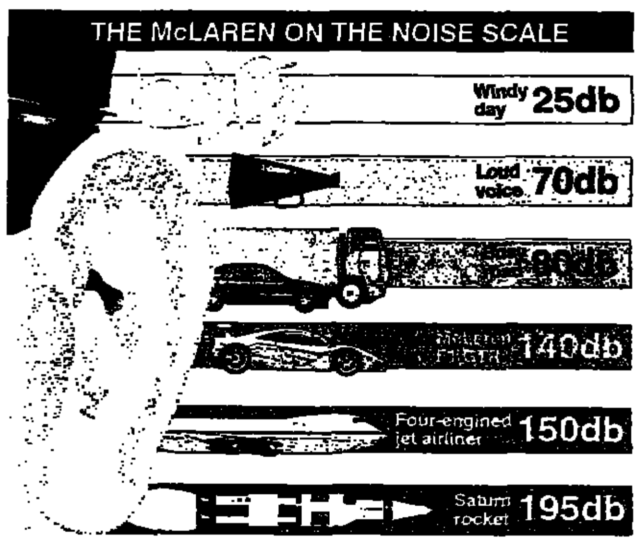
1 Which famous British manufacturer won four times in a row at Le Mans, starting in 1927?

2 How many seats has a McLaren F1 road car?

3 Who starred in the 1971 film, *Le Mans* ?

Entries to GT Le Mans Contest, *Car 96, The Times*, 1, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Usual rules apply, closing date May 10.

THE McLAREN ON THE NOISE SCALE



- FOR ANYONE who has doubts about the acoustic abilities of the unsilenced McLaren GTR, a small boy near Donington has an interesting tale to tell. The incident happened, an insider tells me, when Gulf Racing took the 1995 car to a local Gulf station for a forecourt promotion.
- "When they started it up to leave, they forgot about the potential of the car. The sound blast rebounded under the canopy of the forecourt and blew the small boy off his bike."
- *Wood's Practical Guide to Noise Control* — something of a bible among environmental health officers — cites 140dB as the noise level you get when "Standing thirty metres from a military jet aircraft at take off. Described in subjective terms as intolerable."
- McLaren's engineers say that the 1996 GTR produces, at full flow, 140dB. So if you intend to see it in action this year, be warned. Environmental health officer John Pullin of Stroud District Council told me: "One hundred and forty decibels is on the threshold of pain — if I was near this car I wouldn't like to be without some decent earplugs."
- Gulf Racing spokesman Charlie Ricketts told me that because 100dB marks the critical threhold for noise pollution complaints in the UK, test runs on the GTR at Bruntingthorpe had to be silenced.
- "This car is certainly a chunk louder than the Porsches. In the UK, most circuits like Silverstone are OK, but people are more tree-huggy about these things than they used to be — they buy their homes next to circuits and then complain about the noise."

Audi makes light of weight penalty

Alan Copps on Frank Biela's flying start to the Touring Car season

This is the view of Audi's A4 quattro which Frank Biela expects to show to his rivals again in the second round of the British Touring Car Championship at Brands Hatch tomorrow.

Audi, the new boys in one of the most closely-contested race series in the world, made a sensational debut at Donington Park, Derbyshire, on Easter Monday when Biela, who holds the Touring Car World Cup, won both races in the first round.

The Audi overcame the weight penalty imposed because of its four-wheel-drive as Biela headed home in both 18-lap races more than a second clear of Will Hoy in his Renault Laguna.

John Bintcliffe, from Yorkshire, who was recruited to the Audi team after winning the Ford Fiesta championship last year, finished sixth in the first race and fourth in the second, a confidence-boosting result after a spectacular practice crash last month. The Volvo 850 of Rickard Rydell, which took pole position in the first race spun out spectacularly on the first lap but managed third place in the second race.

Biela, who had been careful pre-season not to overstate Audi's chances, was delighted with his win. "I'm optimistic about Brands, too. The circuit's not too difficult and our car works well there," he said.

The fortunes of the Audi team will be followed throughout the season in *Car 96*. Among the spectators at Brands Hatch will be the winners of our competition in the April 6 edition. Paul Morgan of Wheatley, Oxfordshire, and a guest will be given VIP treatment at Audi Sport's hospitality base and will also receive Audi Sport watches and badges. Ten runners-up will get Audi Sport watches, flasks and badges.

The winners were chosen from more than 250 entrants. The correct answers were 1) John Cleland is the current BTCC champion; 2) Ford is the most successful BTCC team, with more than 200 race wins since it first entered the series; 3) The logo used on all Audi's four-wheel-drive cars is quattro.

Follow my leader: the A4 quattro looks for another date with victory at Brands Hatch

Cleland, incidentally, struggled with the new Vauxhall Vectra but eventually finished fifth in the first race and sixth in the second at Donington. He is one of a group of drivers, including those from the BMW and Honda teams, who will be out to provide stiffer competition for the Audis at Brands Hatch.

After the Donington race Biela has 31 points, Hoy 24, Kelvin Burt (Volvo) 14 and Bintcliffe 13. In the manufacturers' championship, Audi has 30 points, Renault 24, Volvo 20 and Vauxhall 16.

There will be further competitions during the season in *Car 96*, with prizes including places on Audi's safety and performance driving schools both in Britain and at the Nurburgring Grand Prix circuit in Germany.

F1 Fantasy Drive update

THE TIMES F1

Below we print the total points scored by each of the drivers in our competition after the Brazilian and Argentinian grands prix as well as the leaderboard showing the position, number of points to date, team name, and the name of the fantasy team manager.

TOTAL FANTASY POINTS AFTER ARGENTINIAN GP

Group A	
01 M Schumacher	173
02 J Alesi	225
03 D Hill	223
Group B	
04 G Berger	111
05 E Irvine	218
06 J Villeneuve	156
Group C	
07 D Coulthard	140
08 M Hakkinen	142
09 H-H Frentzen	90
Group D	
10 M Brundle	128
11 R Barrichello	188
12 J Herbert	148
Group E	
13 M Salo	155
14 P Lamy	147
15 P Diniz	156
Group F	
16 U Katayama	143
17 J Verstappen	131
18 O Panis	224
Group G	
19 T Marques*	40
20 R Rosset	53
Group H	
21 L Badoer	127
22 A Montermini	143

*Replaces T Inoue

LEADERBOARD AFTER TWO RACES

01	1348	Duplada 4 Racing	K Holmes
01	1348	Rabbit Racers	I Harvey
03	1347	The Fat Wee Fishes	G Leuder
04	1346	The Feel-U-Wells	P Woollson
04	1346	Knight V10	N Knight
04	1346	Hill's Heroes	J Radford
04	1346	Team Acronym	J C Farrow
08	1344	Duplada B Racing	K Holmes
08	1344	The Rad Racers	Mrs P Bray
08	1344	The Skidmarks	A McKenzie
11	1340	Golden Step	T Ronaldson
11	1340	Wilkins Wonders	Mrs S Wilkins
13	1336	Thomas's Terrors	T De Souza
13	1336	Aqua lung	B May
15	1335	Formulation	Mrs C Harding
16	1334	Riverside Racers	C T Savage
17	1333	Brown Bear Racing	Ms J E Mathews
17	1333	No Team Name	A Sokolovski

CHECK YOUR SCORE

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0501). *Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call.* The line currently carries all positions after the Brazilian and Argentinian Grands Prix and will be updated again on Tuesday April 30.

CALL 0891-774 734 24HRS

Change your selections

You can change up to four of your drivers on our transfer line below which is open 24 hours a day (Republic of Ireland 004 499 010 0332). Only one call is permitted in the present transfer period otherwise your transfers will be invalid. If you made a transfer last week you cannot make another call this week. Transfers must result in a team comprising one driver from each of the eight groups.

CALL 0891-405 032 UNTIL NOON THURSDAY APRIL 25

0891 calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times

UPDATE

If you need advice to judge a fine racing driver, then sign up a novelist, *writes Kevin Eason*. Tess Stimson, the writer whose book *Pole Position* is definitely not about grid placings, has dashed into the lead in our celebrity F1 Fantasy Drive Competition.

Her team, Blazing Saddles, seems to have the perfect combination of flair and points-winning consistency. Her top driver was Jean Alesi — not the man to win the world championship perhaps, but the best points scorer because of his ability to overtake, improve his position and finish.

The result, after two grands prix at Brazil and Argentina, was that Alesi was the top driver with 225 points, followed astonishingly by Olivier Panis on 224, then Damon Hill's 223. Damon lost ground for F1 Fantasy drivers because his results were a bit of a foregone conclusion.

Jonathan Palmer, BBC's grand prix commentator, turned out to be a smarty pants by jumping into second place with the safe bets of Hill and Villeneuve plus the brilliance of Rubens Barrichello all coming through for the red, white and blue of his Team Palmer Promosport. Chris Rea, the Northern rock star famous for his *Road to Hell* hit, clearly knows his Tarmac, jostling into third place.

F1 Fantasy Drive celebrity league update: 1, Tess Stimson: Team Blazing Saddles, 1,290. 2, Jonathan Palmer: Team Palmer Promosport, 1,268. 3, Chris Rea: Team RTH (The Road to Hell), 1,239. 4, Louise Aitken-Walker: Team Aitken-Walker, 1,226. 5, Stirling Moss: Team SMART, 1,224. 6, Nick Mason: Ten Tenths, 1,218. 7, Sir David Steel: Team Steelers, 1,191. 8, Lord March: Goodwood, 1,182. 9, CAR 96, 1,131. 10, Carol Vorderman: Vorders Men, 1,122.

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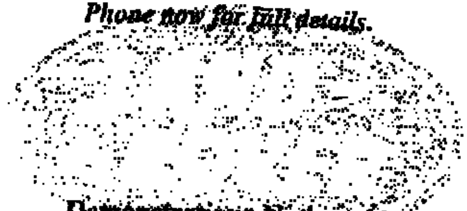

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Entries have arrived from vets, computer engineers, insurance agents, salesmen and women, builders, telephone engineers, brewery representatives and lawyers who will make up teams at the six regional heats. And drivers come from companies with as few as three cars in the fleet up to the 1,500 vehicles run by Bayer, the international pharmaceuticals group.

But every driver will be equal when they get to the heats, no matter the size of company they come from. All will be expected to complete the same tests and drive the same car, our test model from Nissan, the new Almera 1.6.

Vahid Daemi, Lease Plan's managing director, says: "The strength and quality of the entry reflects the interest company drivers now have in improving their skills and safety. This competition is one of the few opportunities where drivers can — free of any charge — get into a car with top instructors and discover how good, or bad, they are at the wheel.

"We are looking forward to a fantastic contest and some fantastic fun, because every driver will thoroughly enjoy the heats, win or lose."

The closing date is now April 24 (not 17, as shown on form), to allow one last chance for those who might have missed earlier application forms.

THE TIMES
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Driver
1996

If you want to join our lineup, fill in the adjoining application form and fax it to Lease Plan, or send it to Company Car Driver of the Year, Lease Plan, Thames Side, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1TY.

Drivers will test themselves in the heat of motoring battle while we try to find the top company car driver in Britain. Chris Howell, managing director of DriveTech, whose instructors will do the examining at regional heats, expects standards to be higher than ever this year.

"What has become clear during the life of this competition is that drivers do want to improve their abilities," he says. "Clearly, any company would train one of its workers to use a computer or a lathe; why then do they not train staff who have to drive as an often major part of their working day?

"Company motorists obviously realise they are effectively operating extremely expensive machinery when they are driving, and many want to be as good as they can be. This competition gives an insight into what is required of a very good driver."

Our 250 or so drivers will have to demonstrate they understand the theory by answering questions on the Highway Code, being able to carry out a simple mechanical check on the car before they set off and then performing on the road with a DriveTech instructor at their side.

Although the examination will be tough, entrants will effectively be getting a free lessons from one of Britain's top driver training schools.

Heat winners will go on to the final at Silverstone, home of the British Grand Prix, where speed will be added to skill under the guidance of the Silverstone Driving Centre. Finalists will go out on a road course but will also have to show they can handle the Almera on fast stretches of the circuit.

Each finalist will be presented with a commemorative plaque by Steven Norris, the minister for road safety, at a special dinner that evening, while the winner not only gets the title of Britain's best company car driver but also the top prize of a continental touring holiday in a car provided by Lease Plan.

Vahid Daemi adds: "It is a great prize, but I suspect that the accolade will mean much more to the drivers who have entered. This is a serious competition dedicated to improving the standards of driving among people who are in effect professional drivers. Being a better driver will mean an easier — and cheaper — maintenance life for the car, lower costs for their companies and a better chance of survival for the drivers themselves, which is ultimately what this is all about."

ENTRY FORM

ABOUT YOUR COMPANY...

Company name: ....

Address: ....

.... Post code: ....

Tel number: .... Fax number: ....

Nature of business: ....

Number of employees: .... Number of company cars: ....

Entrant: .... Position: ....

NB: Entrant should be the director/senior manager responsible for the company's car fleet

NOMINATED DRIVERS...

	Surname	Forename	Job title	Age	Points on licence *(max 3)*
1					
2					
3					
4	*(reserve)*				

Please select your first and second choice location/date of regional heat (indicate 1 or 2 in box):

Maidstone, Kent	Friday, 3 May	☐	Oxford	Friday, 10 May	☐
Wigan, Lancs	Friday, 17 May	☐	Elstree, Herts	Friday, 24 May	☐
Stourport, Hereford	Friday, 31 May	☐	Leicester	Friday, 7 June	☐

Please ensure that entrant and nominated drivers are available for both first and second choice dates and for Silverstone on Friday, 21 June. Initial qualification may be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

Once you have completed this entry form fax to Lease Plan on 01753 620676

Competition rules

The closing date for entries is 17 April 1996. Drivers must be 24 years of age to enter. Maximum number of endorsements on any competitors' driving licence is three points. Drivers must bring their current driving licence to their regional heat for confirmation of the above. Drivers must be nominated by the director or senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. Drivers must be nominated in groups of three. Companies can only enter one team to compete. The entrant may nominate him/herself as part of the team. Competitors must drive a company car or vehicle as part of their employment or remuneration package. Qualification for the team/company award will be dependant on a written test, to be completed by the entrant at their team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Plan, DriveTech, Nissan, News International and the Birkdale Group are not permitted to enter. In the spirit of the event, specialist organisations such as driving training companies, police, the armed forces and the like may not be permitted to enter. A place in the regional heats will be confirmed by post, at least ten days prior to the heat. In the event of over subscription, qualification to the regional heats will be judged through a random driver telephone questionnaire. If the team does not qualify for the regional heat, the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the first heat and the team will be placed on a reserve list. Feedback on each driver's performance will be available after the competition. The reserve driver will be called upon at the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the event of a finalist not being able to attend, the next highest scoring driver from the regional heats will be invited to attend in their place. The prize for the winner will be a seven day European motoring holiday for two. The team/company prize will be a driver programme for twelve employees. Cash alternatives are not available. The judge's decision is final.

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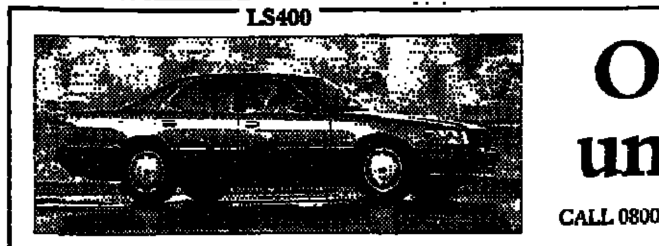

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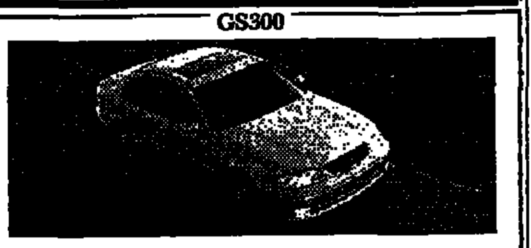

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هكذا من الاصل

Hilton Holloway investigates Rover's little-known top model

A very British coupé de grace

Asked the identity of Rover's flagship motor, we are all likely to answer "800 Sterling". In fact, for the past four years Rover's price list has been headed by the mysterious 800 coupé, a car few have heard of, let alone seen.

Rover's would-be rivals, BMW and Mercedes, are immensely proud of their upmarket coupés and it is with such cars that reputations are made. So it is bizarre that, after going to no little expense in drawing up a two-door 800, Rover has done so little to publicise the fact.

All that is set to change with the introduction of two new 800 coupé models which could make a mark on the UK's executive car market. For a fiver under £30,000, Rover's most expensive car is now the KV6-engined coupé. This powerplant — the pinnacle of Rover's award-winning and much-praised K-series engine range — replaces the old 2.7-litre Honda unit.

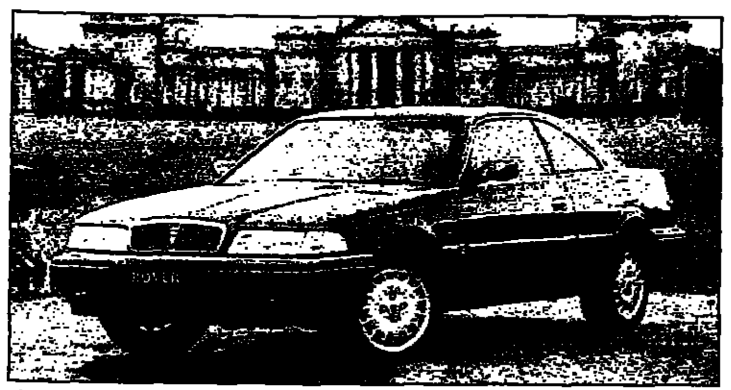
The other model, new to Britain but already sold in Europe, is the 197bhp 2.0-litre turbocharged Vitesse. This is a fiver short of £26,000 and therefore something of a bargain on paper. Apparently, the Vitesse coupé has been successful on the Continent, especially in style-conscious Italy.

Whether newly-alerted UK buyers will see the 800 as classically British remains to be seen. I was surprised that the 800 coupé looked so good considering its age and strange gestation. Originally it was destined to wear a Sterling badge and aimed primarily at the US market. Rover stylists, led by Roy Axe, drew up the coupé with export in mind and it's obvious they succeeded in summing up all that's good about British design for foreign palates.

The top-of-the-range KV6 I drove was a model of good interior practice. Although the instrument binnacle looks dated, it fails to detract from the effect created by classy beige trim, superb leather seats and dark green carpeting. Having driven the new KV6 engine before in combination with an automatic box, I was amazed at the difference a manual shift made. It allowed the engine's fine performance to be fully exploited and encouraged swift, and therefore, safe overtaking manoeuvres.

But the 800's ageing dynamics are a problem. The manual box may encourage sporty driving, but the chassis doesn't. It's safe and secure, but rather uninspiring and is occasionally given to the odd loud suspension crash over really poor surfaces. The 800 coupé isn't a super-quiet cruiser either, with mechanical noise and wind whistle from around the pillar-less windows and wing mirrors. However, the really attractive proposition looks like being the far more sporting Vitesse coupé. I tried this combination in 800 saloon guise, as right-hand drive coupés are still a couple of months away. The four-cylinder turbocharged engine is extremely muscular and provides a satisfyingly effortless turn of speed. More importantly, Rover's chassis engineers have transformed the 800's undercarriage into a genuinely sharp and crisp performer. The upshot is a very satisfying drive. Best of all, the Vitesse coupé will be £4,000 cheaper than the less powerful KV6.

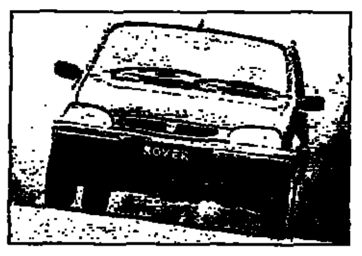
Perhaps the biggest argument for the 800 coupé is its rarity. Drivers who want to stand out in the executive car park, and still buy what is now essentially an all-British car, will be more than pleasantly surprised by the Vitesse.



Rover 800 coupé: all that's good about UK design for foreign palates

800 coupé KV6 manual: Price: £29,995. **Engine:** V6, 2.5-litre, 175bhp; 0-60mph 8.2 secs, top speed 135mph, 33.4mpg.
800 coupé Vitesse: Price: £25,995. **Engine:** Four-cylinder, 2.0-litre, turbocharged, 197bhp; 0-60mph 7.3 secs, top speed 143mph, 34.9mpg.

ROVER 100



- The smallest models in the Rover range have also been given a facelift. Two new versions, the Knightsbridge and Knightsbridge SE, replace the 111i, 111Si, 115SD and Kensington special editions.
- Prices range from £6,595 for a three-door, 1.1i Knightsbridge to £11,995 for the two-door cabriolet.
- All Rover 100s now have door beams to protect against side impact and options include a driver's airbag for £245, said to be the lowest-priced on the market.
- There is a choice of three or five-door body styles with revised trim and just five colours, White Diamond, Kingfisher Blue, pearlescent Amaranth (purple), Nightfire Red and Tahiti Blue.
- The SE version has body-coloured bumpers, a tilting sunroof and remote central locking. There is a choice of engines from the 1.1-litre K-Series to the 1.5-litre diesel.

Serena Sutcliffe tells **Andrew Pierce** about her first love, an MGB in the Sixties

Vintage years in Paris

Known as the *grande dame* of the vine, Serena Sutcliffe is a senior director of Sotheby's, former chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine, a noted broadcaster and wine tasting tutor. Head of the international wine department at the auction house, she was only the second woman to pass the Master of Wine examination.

Next month she will be auctioning in Bond Street a unique set of seven Methuselahs, one of the finest Burgundy lots to have been catalogued. There are only six sets in the world and it is the first one to come to auction. The asking price will be up to £40,000.

Serena, who drinks wine every day, has a favourite. "If I break down in my car, in an isolated spot, I would like to have a bottle of Louis Roederer Cristal champagne." A snip at £70.

How did you first learn to drive?

When I was 17 with a wonderful, calm instructor called Mr Cook. I was a quick learner. But I think my emergency stops shocked him a bit. I had the quick reactions of someone too young. After he sustained the third major bout of bruising to his forehead he decided I did not have to practise anymore.

What was your first car?

A divine, loveable, grey MGB GT which I bought out of my own hard-won earnings. There is something sensual about virtually lying down to drive. It was a wow in Paris in the Sixties.

What car do you drive now, and why?

An Audi 100. My husband, David, and I have been faithful Audi owners for our 19 years of married life. We were not sold by the technology, but by the fact we could fit lots of wine in the back. They are so reliable and responsive to drive.

Do you like driving?

When it is an open road with the proverbial wind in my hair. Inching along in urban traffic is not my idea of heaven. This happens on the Continent when I go on lecture tours or wine tasting sessions. You can drive after a tasting — you spit absolutely everything out.

What is your most hated car?

It is not the cars, it is more the drivers who own them. Small Renaults and Fiats for example. They are driven at breakneck speed on continental motorways, a menace and rather cheeky as they zoom past straining every nerve.

What is your dream car?

I should say a Range Rover, because you can get 35 cases of wine in one. But the car of my dreams is the Mercedes coupé. When I was at school a German friend of my parents came to fetch me, driving the model of the time. It has been an object of desire ever since.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Talking to myself or enacting an opera as it charges to its emotional climax. Fellow drivers, who glance my way, must think I am mad. Wagner's *Ring Cycle* is very dramatic. Mozart is also distracting because I am always tempted to wave and clap my hands because it is so joyous.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they sit close on my bumper or, worse still, the boot. The French and Italians are the worst. I have to work hard to resist the temptation to stamp on my brakes and blow the consequences. I refrain because I could not bear the paperwork.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

We once left London for Glyndebourne in a hurry and had to change into evening dress in the car which was stationary in a country lane. It was a mistake. The car was small and my companion split his trousers in the manoeuvre.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

No. I learnt my lesson at a young age. I was pulled up by the police, soon after I got my licence, for attempting to overtake in a less than suitable place. It brought me down to earth at a time when I thought that I was immortal.

What do you listen to in the car?

A huge range of music from soothing Haydn String Quarters and fifteenth-century Fayrfax Antiphons and Masses to Melchoir singing Sigmund or Tristan.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Introduce massive penalties for jumping the lights. I'd instal police spies and cameras everywhere.

MICHAEL POWELL

Serena Sutcliffe: "My dream car should be a Range Rover. You can get 35 cases of wine in one"

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Stuart Birch and his daughter find an accidental advantage in the Citroën Xantia Estate

Definitely a car to have in an emergency

CITROEN XANTIA ESTATE

Engine: Four-cylinder, indirect injection turbo-charged diesel giving 92bhp at 4,000rpm.

Transmission: Five-speed manual. Front wheel drive.

Performance: 0-60mph in 13.8 seconds, average 40mpg.

Safety: Anti-lock brakes, front seatbelt tensioners, driver's airbag, reinforced rear seat, high-level third brakelight, three-point belts for all rear passengers.

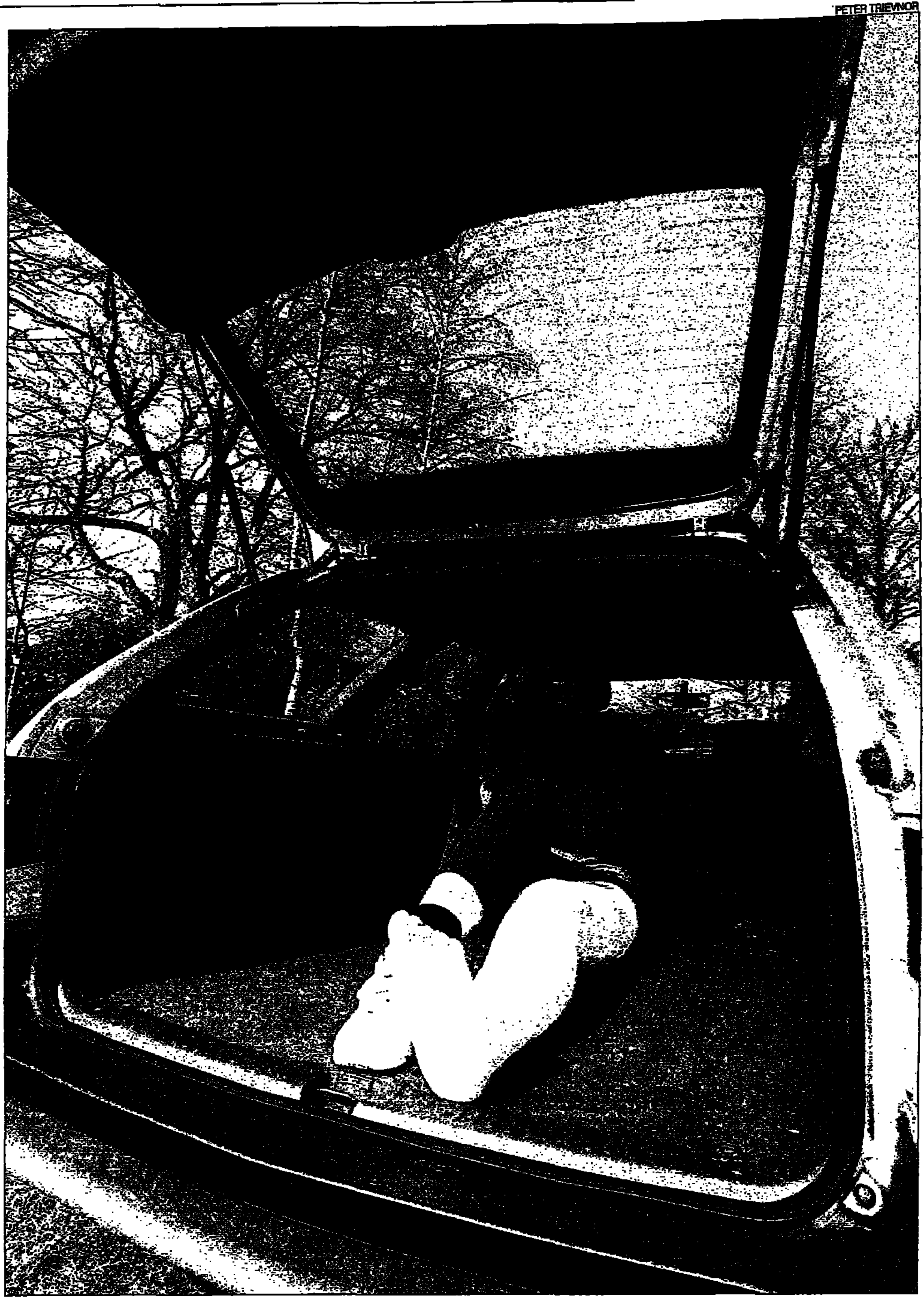
Equipment: Self-levelling suspension, power steering, Blaupunkt radio/cassette player with steering wheel-mounted controls, electronic sunroof, electric windows, electrically heated and adjustable mirrors

Security: Infra-red remote central locking/deadlocks and keypad immobiliser.

Seating: Height and lumbar support adjustment for driver and central rear armrest.

Price: £16,795.

Health note: Eleanor is making a good recovery.



PETER TREVNOR

Broken leg room: Eleanor shows how folding away the seats converts the Xantia's load space for use as a makeshift ambulance

"What we need," said Dr Mike Bailey, "is that." He pointed to my Citroën Xantia turbo-diesel Estate parked a few yards away on a muddy track. It was about to become an ambulance.

The patient was my 27-year-old daughter, Eleanor, lying on the edge of a field, swathed in blankets tucked in by a gleaming foil insulation wrap courtesy of the fire brigade. She had been riding her horse when another just ahead had suddenly kicked out, breaking her leg in two places.

Now she was in great pain and losing a lot of blood. It had proved impossible to get the proper ambulance to her over the slippery, potholed track. Essex fire brigade was there with a six-wheel drive Steyr-Daimler-Puch rescue vehicle, but that would have provided a very bumpy ride. However, I had managed to reach the site of the accident in the competent Xantia.

The ambulance crew had given Eleanor a painkiller but it was not sufficient, so Dr Bailey was called from Writtle, near Chelmsford. He is a Basics (British Association of Immediate Care Schemes) doctor. Basics is a voluntary organisation comprising GPs and hospital doctors who are on 24-hour standby to provide back-up for paramedics in particularly difficult situations. They have special training for immediate care work for such things as road — and, in this case, horse — accidents. Their equipment is paid for by local fund-raising events.

Dr Bailey arrived in the fire brigade's Steyr and quickly pumped more serious stuff into Eleanor, but she was still in pain: carrying her several hundred yards to the road would be a problem.

At last, though, the morphine started to work, moving her became a possibility — and the Xantia Estate was about to take on a role that could never have been envisaged by its designers. Lowering the car's back seats proved easy enough once the headrests had been lifted out (a fiddly business in those circumstances) and, at 64ins long, 34ins high and 44ins wide, the load space was large and flat enough to take the stretcher with the tailgate open, Dr Bailey kneeling alongside her with a bottle of nitrous oxide/oxygen mixture for added pain relief.

So we set off, Eleanor still awake and mumbling: "No wheelspin starts, please." The Xantia has hydra-pneumatic suspension which is adjustable for height. I raised it to increase ground clearance by 2ins as we moved forward gingerly, driving as carefully and as smoothly as I have ever done in my life.

A few minutes later we reached the road and she was transferred from the makeshift Citroën ambulance to the grown-up one, and was on her way to hospital at last.

It may not have been my chosen method of test driving a car, but the Sunday afternoon drama did demonstrate an added and unlikely dimension of the versatile Xantia's capabilities; an estate with less sophisticated suspension might have had a problem clearing some of the humps and bumps on the track.

Raising the Citroën's height is just a matter of pushing a lever positioned between the front seats. It takes only a few seconds for the suspension system of hydraulic fluid and nitrogen gas — which is automatically self-levelling — to pump up to give added ground clearance. In extremis it is possible to raise the suspension by a total of 4ins, but stretched to that height it is almost rock hard and the car should be driven for only very short distances.

After demonstrating its ambulance capability, the Citroën's other attributes rather paled into insignificance. But it is a comfortable, competent car. Its sophisticated suspension smoothes out the bumps very effectively at any speed and it is a fine long-distance cruiser, able to average around 40mpg. There is a nine-model choice of Xantia Estates, including 1.8 and 2.0 litre petrol versions.

The turbodiesel's performance is a shade leisurely, taking 14 seconds to reach 60mph; I wanted a more responsive engine such as the direct injection turbo-diesels used by VW and Audi. While the general design is thoroughly practical, the position of its pedals is annoying; the brake is lower than the clutch and has little movement. I also felt the pedals were too close together.

The car is good-looking and offers fine value, with prices starting at £14,110 for the 1.8 litre petrol model — which in healthcare economics terms is not at all bad for an ambulance. Thanks, Citroën.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A Master of all he drives

NICK FALDO bounces straight from his US Masters success and into a Jaguar. The British golfer has signed a five-year sponsorship deal with the carmaker which starts with the Jaguar World Golf Final at Gleneagles in Scotland later this month. How much the association is worth is not known, but experts say Faldo can expect to reel in £5 million in total, thanks to his last-gasp Masters victory.

On a plate

SALES OF personalised registration plates have brought in £200 million for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency since 1989. Apart from run-of-the-mill plates, the DVLA managed to fetch £200,000 for 1A and £235,000 for K1 NGS three years ago.

Promoting sales

FOOTBALL fever is doing somebody some good in the North East, even if it is not Kevin Keegan. Reg Vardy's specialist car centre on the outskirts of First Division leaders Sunderland has taken orders for ten new Bentleys in two months. General manager Martin Shaw says that the "feel-good" factor has never felt better than now, with Newcastle United, Middlesbrough and now Sunderland to meet in the Premiership next season.

Engine switch

SSANYONG is to stop equipping its 4x4 Musso vehicles with German-built Mercedes engines for versions made under licence in South Korea. The company is to announce that the first models with the new power plants will be 2.9-litre diesels and the 3.2-litre petrol which is put together from kit components supplied by Mercedes.

Victoria Day

BEAULIEU, home of the National Motor Museum, throws open its doors on May 5 for a gathering of Victorian vehicles and memorabilia, including fairground entertainment, a traditional Punch and Judy and organ grinder. Horse-drawn carriages and steam engines will be among the attractions as part of the celebration of 100 years of the British motor industry.

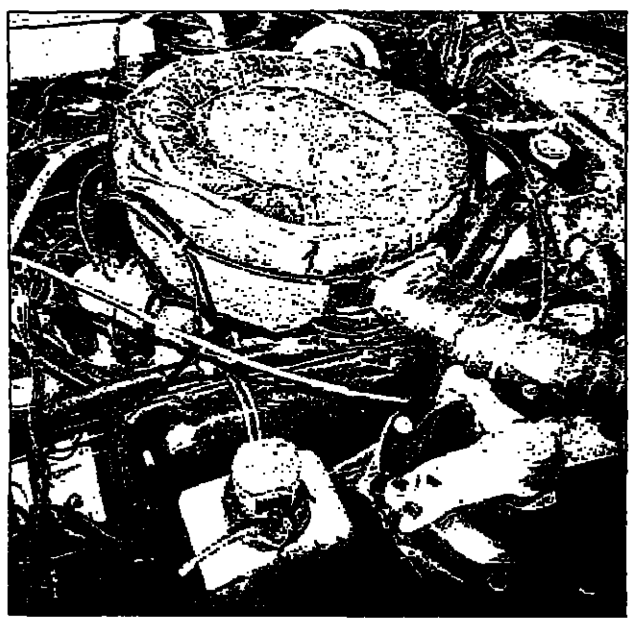
Vauxhall winner

PETER ARMER of Chorley, Lancashire, will be cheering England on in their first European soccer championship game against Switzerland next month after winning tickets in our competition, sponsored by Vauxhall.

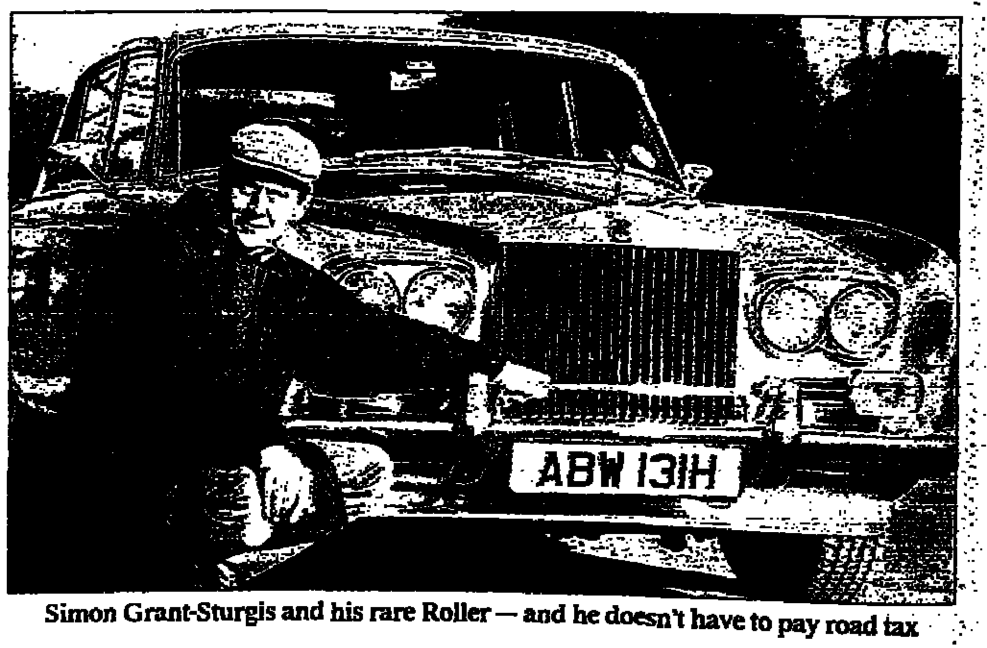
The answers were: When did GM take over Vauxhall? 1925. Which top goalscorer was replaced by Geoff Hurst in the 1966 World Cup? Jimmy Greaves. Name the 1966 World Cup back four: Bobby Moore, Jack Charlton, George Cohen, Ray Wilson. Against which country was Gary Lineker replaced and who was his substitute in the last Euro Championships? Sweden; Alan Smith. Which was the last GM Vauxhall Conference team elected to the league? Wycombe Wanderers.

'There in the paper was a Silver Shadow — fitted with a diesel engine'

Simon Grant-Sturgis tells **David Thompson** about his ultimate in comfortable and stylish towing vehicles



Roller diesel: the engine conversion that has doubled the miles per gallon performance of the Silver Shadow



Simon Grant-Sturgis and his rare Roller — and he doesn't have to pay road tax

Simon Grant-Sturgis is the owner of a very unusual Rolls-Royce — a diesel-powered Silver Shadow. He got it indirectly through his Alan Peters group, which delivers any car anywhere in the world at the drop of a hat. More often than not though, his work involves domestic deliveries throughout Britain.

After one 400-mile tow-delivery job, in a "most uncomfortable" Nissan Patrol, Simon was resting his back in the local pub with a few of his car-mad pals. He declared that what he really wanted for these long towing trips was an oldish (and therefore cheapish) Silver Shadow, one of the most comfortable cars he could think of. But to make it economical he would somehow have to fit a diesel engine to improve on the car's original 10-12mpg.

"I looked in the paper the very next day and there she was, a 1970 Silver Shadow — with a diesel engine already fitted. I couldn't believe my luck, so I went to have a look." Fifteen thousand pounds later he parked the gleaming car in his drive.

The diesel conversion was done by Devon-based Samurai Motor Components, who import General Motors' 6.2-litre V-8 diesels from the United States. This engine's robustness stems from the basic no-nonsense American design, iron cylinder block and heads and fuss-free hydraulic tappets. Power is around 160bhp — somewhat less than the Rolls's original 200 horsepower. This means the diesel works at a relaxed pace and will last a long time.

It also bolts directly to General Motors' GM400 automatic gearbox, which was originally fitted to the Shadow. Other requirements are just a couple of remade engine mounts, a shortened propshaft and an altered exhaust. Like all diesel cars, the brakes need assistance from an external pump and, in this case, a Citroën hydraulic unit gives that assistance. There's no road tax to pay either, as the car is more than 25 years old. Over 25 is also what this Roller now gets in mpg.

Considering the car's age, the panels still have a fit and finish that many a Forth Bridge engineer would be proud of and all the doors still close precisely with a solid "thunk". Better still, there's not a touch of rust anywhere.

Although Simon has sarcastically added a "DIESEL" badge on the boot lid. Rolls-Royce never produced a production diesel engine, though they did experiment with an unreliable rotary diesel engine some years ago. The Shadow itself had an inauspicious start when it was launched in 1966. From the start the car was criticised for poor handling and performance (though the ride was good) and it became clear that the design favoured the chauffeur-driven owner rather than the owner-driver.

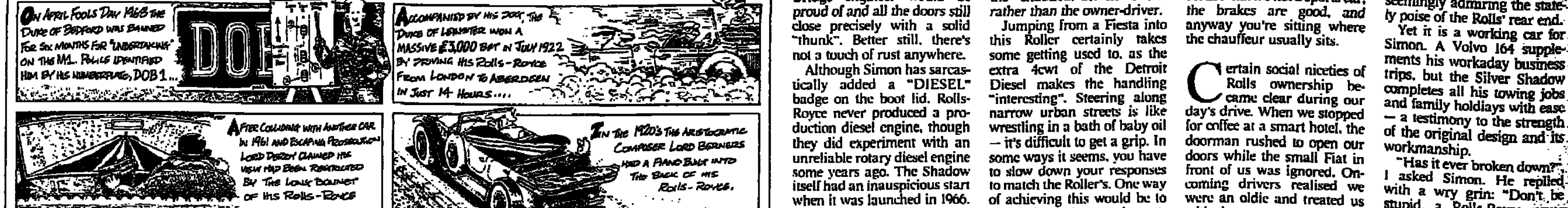
Jumping from a Fiesta into this Roller certainly takes some getting used to, as the extra 4cwt of the Detroit Diesel makes the handling "interesting". Steering along narrow urban streets is like wrestling in a bath of baby oil — it's difficult to get a grip. In some ways it seems, you have to slow down your responses to match the Roller's. One way of achieving this would be to blend into the gentlemen's club interior and put away two bottles of claret with a couple of hand-rolled Havanas. But it's probably better just to realise that it's not a sports car, the brakes are good, and anyway you're sitting where the chauffeur usually sits.

Certain social niceties of Rolls ownership became clear during our day's drive. When we stopped for coffee at a smart hotel, the doorman rushed to open our doors while the small Fiat in front of us was ignored. Oncoming drivers realised we were an oldie and treated us with the same reverence they would save for a great-aunt, politely standing aside to let us pass. Best of all, people actually let us out of tight junctions, seemingly admiring the stately poise of the Rolls' rear end.

Yet it is a working car for Simon. A Volvo 164 supplements his workaday business trips, but the Silver Shadow completes all his towing jobs and family holdiays with ease — a testimony to the strength of the original design and its workmanship.

"Has it ever broken down?" I asked Simon. He replied with a wry grin: "Don't be stupid, a Rolls-Royce never breaks down".

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans



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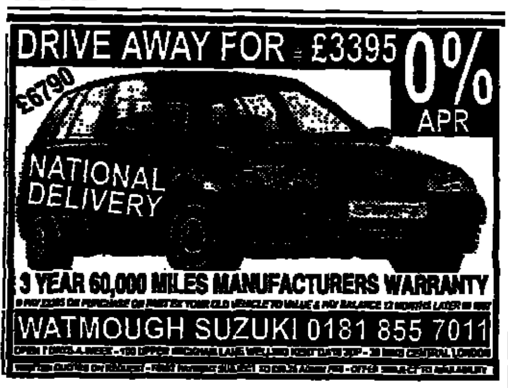

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Guy Walters reports from the Camel Trophy, a drama of giant bugs and mounting delays

When the going gets tough . . . we stop

LEE FARRANT

OUR MAN SOMEWHERE IN BORNEO

Walters: still filing

■ OFFICIALS are waiting anxiously for contestants in this year's Camel Trophy race, which has proved a spectacular ordeal. Officials from *Car 96* are waiting anxiously for the return of their reporter, Guy Walters, who is following the slow progress of the event.

■ The teams are now five days behind schedule, having covered only 20 miles in nearly a week along some of the toughest jungle tracks in the world through Borneo.

■ Land Rovers are having to be winched across steep ravines and through clinging mud, slowing down their progress to less than a crawl. The convoy was due to reach its final destination in Pontianak today — but hopes were fading fast that it would even get near to the finish line, such was the trauma of the journey.

■ Nevertheless, our fearless reporter managed to file his despatch to *Car 96*. Will Walters make it back to the office on Monday though? Here he tells his story . . .

Britons John Leach, left, and William Tapley were in good spirits, but the deeper into Borneo the convoy travelled the more hellish it became

Until a short while ago, this year's Camel Trophy was in danger of becoming a pleasant experience, reminiscent of a Sunday afternoon's drive through some Home Counties woodland. The weather was fine — hot with a daily downpour — and progress was smooth enough. The spirits of John Leach and William Tapley, the UK's participants, were high, despite the mosquitoes and Leach's viral foot infection. However, the deeper into Borneo the convoy has travelled, the more hellish and muddy the event has become.

Ironically, the troubles started on one of the island's most level roads. As the Greek team rounded a bend at 25mph, a brace of speeding Indonesian motorcyclists decided to introduce themselves to the Discovery's bull-bar. The bar remained undented; the Indonesians had a fractured arm, a broken toe and broken leg between them. Neither Leach nor Tapley, who were first on the scene, had seen bone outside skin before.

Luckily for the victims, they had chosen the right vehicle to crash into. The Camel convoy carries two doctors, who have a Defender with enough medical supplies to stock a small hospital. It was left to Ryk Albertyn to tend to them — a grisly task of administering general anaesthetic on the spot, snapping broken limbs into place and sticking fingers into bloody holes. The local doctor eventually arrived in a clapped-out Jeep, into which he slung the victims. They were to have a literally boneshaking ride back to what passes for a clinic.

It was a busy day for Dr Albertyn. Earlier, he had treated an American journalist who had fallen 20ft down a gully, landing on his face and leaving his nose in the middle of his forehead. He is currently undergoing facial reconstruction in Singapore.

Wednesday saw our arrival in deepest Borneo — the town of Tewah, which felt like Bond Street after a week in the jungle. The locals were astounded and delighted to see 38 Land Rovers drive through their town. The shopkeepers were ecstatic. Every case of Sprite, beer, loaf of bread, bottle of water and packet of cigarettes must have been bought — no doubt at gross mark-ups. The UK and US teams even found time to play volleyball with some teenagers, the inhabitants waved as we left; we could only reflect that they were far more accommodating to us than we would have been if a convoy of Bornean tribesmen had marched through, say, Uttoxeter. It will become a day momentous in Tewah's history, to us it was like a stop at an unnaturally friendly service station.

But Tewah was the only chink of light in the cloud. A few kilometres outside, the convoy faced the first of another series of gruelling obstacles, this time a ford followed by a steep, muddy slope. It took well into the night to overcome and we had to pitch camp on a jungle track no wider than the Land Rovers.

That night, the bugs were at their most gargantuan. Tapley and I were woken in the Discovery at 3am by half-a-dozen examples the size of birds and buzzing like motorbikes at full throttle. We tentatively waged war and sprayed enough neat repellent to all but melt the dashboard. We thought we had won, but the next morning, one flew out of Tapley's shirt as he put it on. The locals eat them with rice — a sort of bug risotto — but we stuck to our bacon and beans boil-in-a-bag for breakfast.

The next five days were among the most tedious anybody on the convoy has ever spent. In that time, only 30 kilometres were covered. The "road", which is part of the unfinished trans-Borneo highway, is an assortment of collapsed bridges, washed-out surfaces and thickest vegetation. Although the route had been "reccied" by Nick Horne, the event leader, by helicopter, he seriously underestimated the road's condition. One bridge crossing alone took 24 hours.

This involves much work for the teams, who have to toil like navvies in sun and rain to improve surfaces, winch cars and build bridges. It entails a lot of hanging around, and many of the support drivers, journalists and marshalls merely wilt in the heat, flicking flies off their browning legs. Occasionally a journalist will help, but will only regret sacrificing his barely-earned sleep to wallow in glorious mud while it pours.

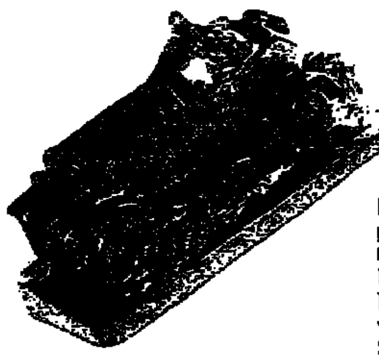
Many team members are tiring and tempers are shortening. Those once referred to with affection are now referred to in the scatalogical. The German pair hardly speak to each other, and everybody is annoyed with the seeming lack of effort put in by the Swiss and Canary Islanders.

But the real strain has been taken by the vehicles. Despite their hardiness, the overweighted Defenders and Discoverys have suffered over the ludicrously jolty terrain. One Defender has a broken gearbox; one Discovery has a broken half-shaft. Another, which carries the heavy rafting equipment, has two broken half-shafts and a broken steering box. New parts will have to be flown in from Java. The damage to the British car is mild and typical: the right wing and doors have been shunted, the rear bumper was wrenched off ages ago and the since-repaired bull bar was twisted badly.

At the time of writing, last Monday, the convoy is five days behind schedule. Our next town, Tumbung Samba, should have been reached three days ago. At this rate, we shall arrive at Pontianak, our destination 700 kilometres away, on the east coast, by October. Efforts will have to be trebled and it may soon be necessary to let the journalists take the wheel. I hope my AA membership hasn't expired.

You know all that rubbish lying about in the garage? Sotheby's might be interested

Jennai Cox on automobilia sales



Upmarket automobilia: a 1927 supercharged Type-K Mercedes

A TWO-GALLON petrol can could cost as little as £5 today — but an old one could be worth £100. Hoarders of rusting oil cans, headlamps or any other motor paraphernalia should clear out their garage and head for the Lakeland Motor Museum at Holker Hall, Cumbria, for a free valuation this weekend as Sotheby's Vintage Vehicle department goes on a motoring version of the *Antiques Roadshow*.

Tomorrow, three Sotheby's specialists will be ready to look at piles of car junk — from lamps to petrol pumps, enamel advertising signs, a picnic set or even the vehicle itself — in the hope of finding some motoring gems.

Martin Chisholm, head of Sotheby's London car department, says a number of cars forgotten in barns and garages in years past have fetched thousands of pounds at auction; a neglected 1950s Jaguar sold for £12,000 in March, double its estimated price. "We have discovered so many treasures in the past," he adds. "Little old ladies may have car parts lying around they do not think are of any value."

Interest in automobilia has grown since the recession when the classic car market sagged and collectors turned their attention to accessories. Also fuelling the market are people who clear out their garages and get rid of old vehicle parts at boot sales, not realising the value of what they are selling.

Motor accessories sold by the auction house in the past include a pair of Carless Coalite petrol pump globes, which fetched £1,000 each, and a pre-war Cheltenham petrol can that sold for £185.

The motor museum in Cumbria, which features 150 vehicles and a re-creation of a 1920s garage, was chosen as the first vénue of what the auction house hopes will become a countrywide automobilia roadshow; a second is planned at the motor museum in Coventry later this year. The only cost will be entry to the grounds of the museum: £5.50 for adults and £3.30 for children. Valuations will be given between 10:30 and 4:30.

Lakleland Motor Museum 01539 558 509. Find out what was discovered next week in Car 96.

DR DASHBOARD

Precautions to avoid a nervous breakdown

Q **The family wants a day out at a safari park. But I don't fancy driving through herds of wildebeest and lions. What do you think?**

A You could have a lovely time, but there are a few things you should know and do before venturing out into the jungles of darkest Britain.

Q ***I know . . . fit bull bars and buy a shotgun or something. I've read your advice before.***

A No need to be sarcastic in the surgery. You should give your car a thorough check if you want to avoid the sort of unpleasant experience some people have suffered.

Q **Such as what? It's only a day out at a theme park, after all.**

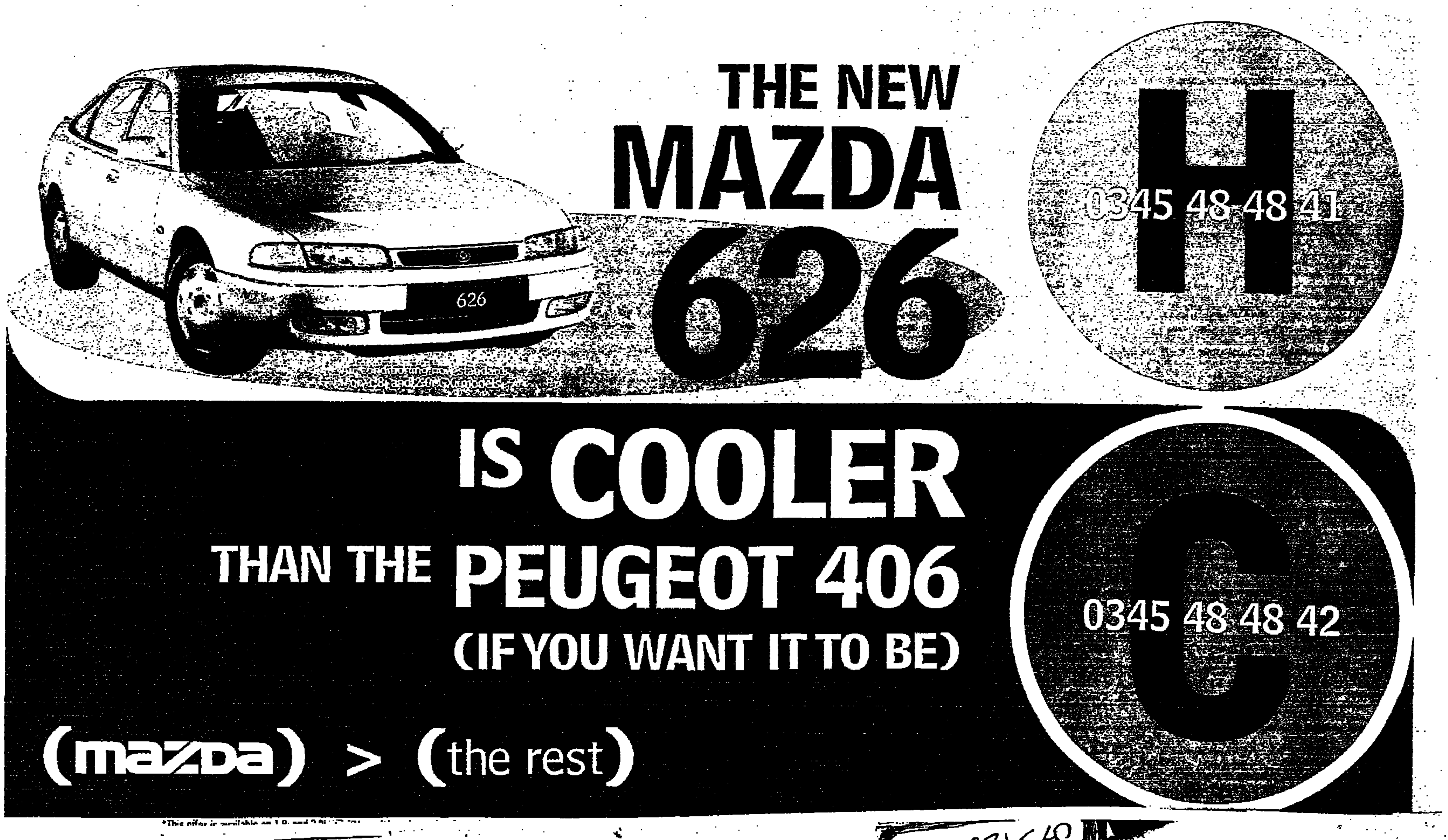
A Not for Craig Gordon and Claire Saunders who went to see the Lions of Longleat this week. Their car broke down and then burst into flames while the lions circled their hapless Peugeot 205. Great for the lions waiting for a cooked meal, but not so great for the couple faced between being turned to toast or providing an alternative to a meal of mad cow. Which is why you need advice.

Q **What? On how to run very fast when being chased by lions? What help can you offer in situations like that?**

A Only the obvious. For instance, make sure your car is not going to break down: check the battery and cooling systems, make sure you have enough petrol when you enter the safari park and ensure the tyres are all in good order. Another thing, retract your radio aerial and make sure nothing is loose around the car. The doctor giggled one day at Woburn watching monkeys systematically strip the vinyl from the roof of a Metro. They just picked up a loose corner and went to work on it.

Q ***What do we do if everything does go wrong and we are stuck in the car being circled by hungry lions like that poor couple were?***

A You could draw lots in the car and push the least favourite member of the family through the window to distract the lions while you all leg it in the opposite direction . . . although the official advice is to blow your horn to attract the attention of the park wardens, as Craig and Claire did. Actually, feeding the lions with your mother-in-law or a particularly unpleasant and sticky younger member of the family sounds quite attractive now I think about it. It could be quite entertaining and you could always have a personal sticker put in the rear windscreen of your family hatchback: "I Fed The Lions of Longleat". Quite individual, don't you think?!



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Whitelaw: sharp observations of Olivier and Beckett

■ BILLIE WHITELAW ... WHO HE?
By Billie Whitelaw
Sceptre, £7.99

THE Coventry-born actress, celebrated for her work with Samuel Beckett, writes her own story. Whitelaw begins with her lower-class roots, remembering parental rows, her evacuee years, the early death of her father. She notes key characteristics: her eagerness to please; feeling an outsider as a teenage radio star then amid the buzzing London theatre scene of the 1950s and 1960s. She interweaves personal experiences, notably a harrowing account of her son's near-death from meningitis, with her professional life which took off with Olivier's new National Theatre.

Whitelaw is not a startling writer, and the opening chapters are patchy. The prose is almost pedestrian but its virtue is frank simplicity. This autobiography is not chock-a-block with confessions or exposés. But Whitelaw does not shy away from sharp observations, mixed with fondness, about Maggie Smith, Olivier and, indeed, herself.

She becomes really fascinating in her recall of rehearsals with Beckett: from his minute alterations to the gruelling practicalities of *Not I*, including a head-vice to stop the shakes.

Interim chapters cover radio, film and countless directors. Whitelaw ends serenely contented, describing her love of the Suffolk countryside, of her husband Robert Muller (once a dreaded theatre critic) and her son, now a stage manager.

■ THE CUNNING MAN
By Robertson Davies
Penguin, £6.99

WHEN Jonathan Hullah, a distinguished though maverick elderly Toronto physician, is questioned about a strange occurrence of 30 years ago, he finds himself looking back with intense curiosity over his own rich yet unsatisfying life. A compelling plot involving a mysterious death, a drunken priest, broken family ties and shifting friendships is woven through with philosophical meditations on every aspect of human experience from art, religion and psychoanalysis to sex and death. An extraordinary, humane and wide-ranging novel which overflows with intellectual energy.

■ WINTERDANCE
The Fine Madness of Alaskan Dog Racing
By Gary Paulsen
Indigo, £5.99

THE IDITAROD is the famous Alaskan dog race which is run across 1,180 miles of deadly Arctic wastes, from Anchorage westwards to the Bering Sea. In this exhilarating book the Canadian writer Gary Paulsen describes how he took up this challenge, from the training of his first dog team to the moment when he crossed the finishing line. It's not just the account of a hair-raising physical adventure, it's about the extraordinary symbiosis of man and dog necessary for such an enterprise. Absolutely stunning.

■ THE HOUSE OF BLUE LIGHTS
By Joe Roberts
Black Swan, £6.99

A COUPLE of summers ago Roberts packed his rucksack, took a plane to the States and rented a beach house at the tip of the Bolivar Peninsula on the Gulf of Mexico. He was charmed by this sleepy corner of the "Lone Star State" and by the characters he encountered there — including a former stripper who once danced for Elvis, a reclusive Miss Havisham-like spinster and an aged country singer who is haunted by her past. This book is a love letter to those he left behind when his summer in the sun came to an end.

Contributors: Kate Bassett, Nicki Household, Hazel Leslie, Jason Cowley

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■ ALL GOD'S CHILDREN
By Thomas Eidson
Michael Joseph, £13.99

PEARL EDDY will drive you to distraction. Damn it, why doesn't she see sense? Blind, recently widowed and with four sons to support, Pearl needs all the help she can get as she tries to scrape a meagre living from her farm. Her neighbours are already distrustful of her Quaker ways, and then she riles them further by taking under her wing a collection of lost souls unlikely to endear her to the likes of Simon James and his Royal Order of Redmen.

First, there is a black man, Jerome Prophet: "the Prophet of Doom" as he is known in his trade of bare-knuckle fighting; when he cannot make a living with his fists, he is not above thieving. Caught red-handed in town and attacked, he hides in her house, kills her hen, and still she takes him in, swallowing his story about being a minister ("Mr Prophet," she calls him) wholesale.

As if that is not bad enough, there is a family of Chinamen too — well, they are Japanese, actually, but this is Kansas and it is 1890. They have come to stake a claim on some land, not knowing that as "orientals" their rights are voided. Someone, as Pearl sees it, has to help the Kishimotos, and it seems that God has it planned that it should be her. But the good folk of Liberty are not in the least impressed by her charity, and before long the Royal Order are planning to teach her a lesson.

It seems inconceivable that Pearl should stick by her resolve and let her farm go to ruin and let her boys be adopted by a wealthy aunt who imagines a better life for them in Boston. It is Eidson's great achievement to make Pearl's goodness believable, and to convince us that a man scarred by and inured to violence would turn away from it at her bidding. Who would not allow her defender, Prophet, to use his talented fists on a drifter hired to rape her? Pearl Eddy, that's who.

"What can I do to repay you, ma'am?" asks the grateful Hank Meyers, the would-be rapist. "Repay the Lord," says Pearl, and her conviction, and Eidson's behind it, is strong enough to raise hairs on the back of your neck.

The novel is flawed. It goes on too long, there are one too many miraculous escapes, and the ending — given Eidson's sharp eye for the daily horrors of frontier life — is a bit too good to be true. But these failings shed light on Eidson's origins as a writer: his prairie tales — the first of which, *St Agnes' Stand*, won the W. H. Smith "Thumping Good Read Award" in 1994 — come out of his own family's history on the frontier.

As a boy he grew up listening to his parents' and grandparents' stories of a harder and more vivid life; this, his third novel, maintains the immediacy of a tale told by firelight.

A vivid journey through the imaginative mind of a supreme designer

Blasts from a master

■ BEWARE WET PAINT: Designs by Alan Fletcher
By Jeremy Myerson, Rick Poynor and David Gibbs
Phaidon, £39.99

ON THE cover is an anecdote from designer supreme Alan Fletcher: "A marketing manager, resentful of being told by the chairman that he had to see me, made his position absolutely clear. 'I know nothing about design,' he said, 'furthermore, I don't want anything to do with it.' He was kitted out in a chalk-stripe brown suit, a distressed-patterned tie, glasses the colour of stewed glue, sat behind a tacky reproduction antique desk and worked in an office to match. I believed him — and left!"

Hard luck on that marketing manager and his chairman: they missed out on working with one of the most enlightened and prolific designers of the past 35 years.

This book celebrates those years, with hundreds of design solutions which are witty, seemingly simple and refined. The images are depicted in themed chapters, with commentaries by Jeremy Myerson. There are also four appreciations and an interview with the designer.

DAVID DRIVER

Split heir: poster design for the National Portrait Gallery by Alan Fletcher, composed by arranging details from other portraits to make a picture of the Prince of Wales

On a formic acid trip

■ EMPIRE OF THE ANTS
By Bernard Werber
Bantam, £9.99

THIS is not, as idle bookshelf-browers might imagine, a spin-off from the recently-ended series of television documentaries on insect life, *Alien Empire*. Then again, it could well serve as the novelisation.

Take an ordinary Parisian family and move them into a basement flat inherited from an eccentric uncle who has left them nothing else but a dire warning that they must never, never, never go down to the cellar. And what happens? Of course, they ignore the warning — or at least the family pet does — and the cellar swallows them up, one at a time, followed by a succession of policemen, firemen and sundry functionaries.

There is a black humour about *Empire of the Ants* that borders on farce, at least as far as the human beings are concerned. But then they are not the protagonists. The real adventure is being lived out on an altogether different plane of existence, literally below their feet.

Bernard Werber, a science journalist in Paris, has come up with a book that touches on the fringe of science fiction while remaining firmly embedded in terra firma.

Werber has managed something quite extraordinary: he has written a novel about the teeming world of insects, and makes us sympathise with them. With only minimal concessions to the human position, he creates a universe seen from the point of view of a woodland russet ant, or as the 327th male would see it, an inhabitant of one of the biggest, most important cities in the world, with more than 18 million citizens and dominating an allied federation beyond even Captain Kirk's wildest imaginings.

But Werber's real achievement is in conjuring up the challenge of communicating with a genuinely alien intelligence, one that, for instance, might be collectivist rather than individualistic in its sense of identity. He makes the ants' various means of communication — usually by hormonal scents — seem perfectly reasonable, even comprehensible.

With "characters" who "talk" in smells and experience time also in terms of temperature, the key to Werber's book is thinking in more than our usual set of dimensions. To jolt the reader's mind in the right direction he sets a puzzle: "How do you form three equilateral triangles using only six matches?"

This is an off-beat adventure story with an intellectual edge, and unquestionably the best book I have read this year.

PETER MILLAR

Sweepings from the shop floor

■ THE DEVIL'S CAROUSEL
By Jeff Torrington
Secker, £15.99

NAME three novels set in a factory. Not including *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*. That this question could conceivably feature in a literary quiz says a lot about fiction's usual accounts of working lives, where jobs, if they exist at all, tend to be those of English teachers, English lecturers and — even more popular — writers.

The Devil's Carousel provides a glaring exception to this depressing rule since almost all of its action takes place in a car-assembly plant in central Scotland. This actually makes it every bit as historical a work as a swashbuckler about the Jacobite rebellion, and anyone nostalgic for the long-gone days of wildcat strikes, daft managers ineptly dealing with competition from Japan or the very existence of car-assembly plants in central Scotland can indulge themselves here.

The book consists of various scenes from industrial life, such as the cunning sabotage of a car custom-built for one of the corrupt management; the last and eventful day of the plant's security chief; the sorry fate of the worker driven to mental breakdown by a change from his cherished clock number (2001). By far the best of these vignettes describes another sudden descent into personal hell, that of a devout foreman who orders the factory's porn king to clean up his adult-rated walls and is made to realise, in retaliation, the exact nature of his beloved daughter's modelling career.

Although this is a slim work, as if to remind us that car plants once employed thousands, it includes a cast about as large as that of *War and Peace*. Adding to the confusion, most members of the cast sport a nickname — the bird-watching "Twitcher" Haskins, the alleged scoutmaster "Woggle" Henshaw, "Sputnik" McQuirr (he of the 2001 clock number). Names, nicknames, jobs and stories come and go at such a pace that reading this novel is every bit as bewildering as a first day at work.

The prose is equally hectic, as Jeff Torrington indulges in his love of adjectives, puns, patter, odd contractions (such as "to've" and "from'm") and figures of speech. A cough cannot be just a cough: it is a "bronchial outburst"; a wasp is a "striped demon"; the time on an alarm clock supposedly seems as static as "a frozen stellar system".

Torrington: bewildering

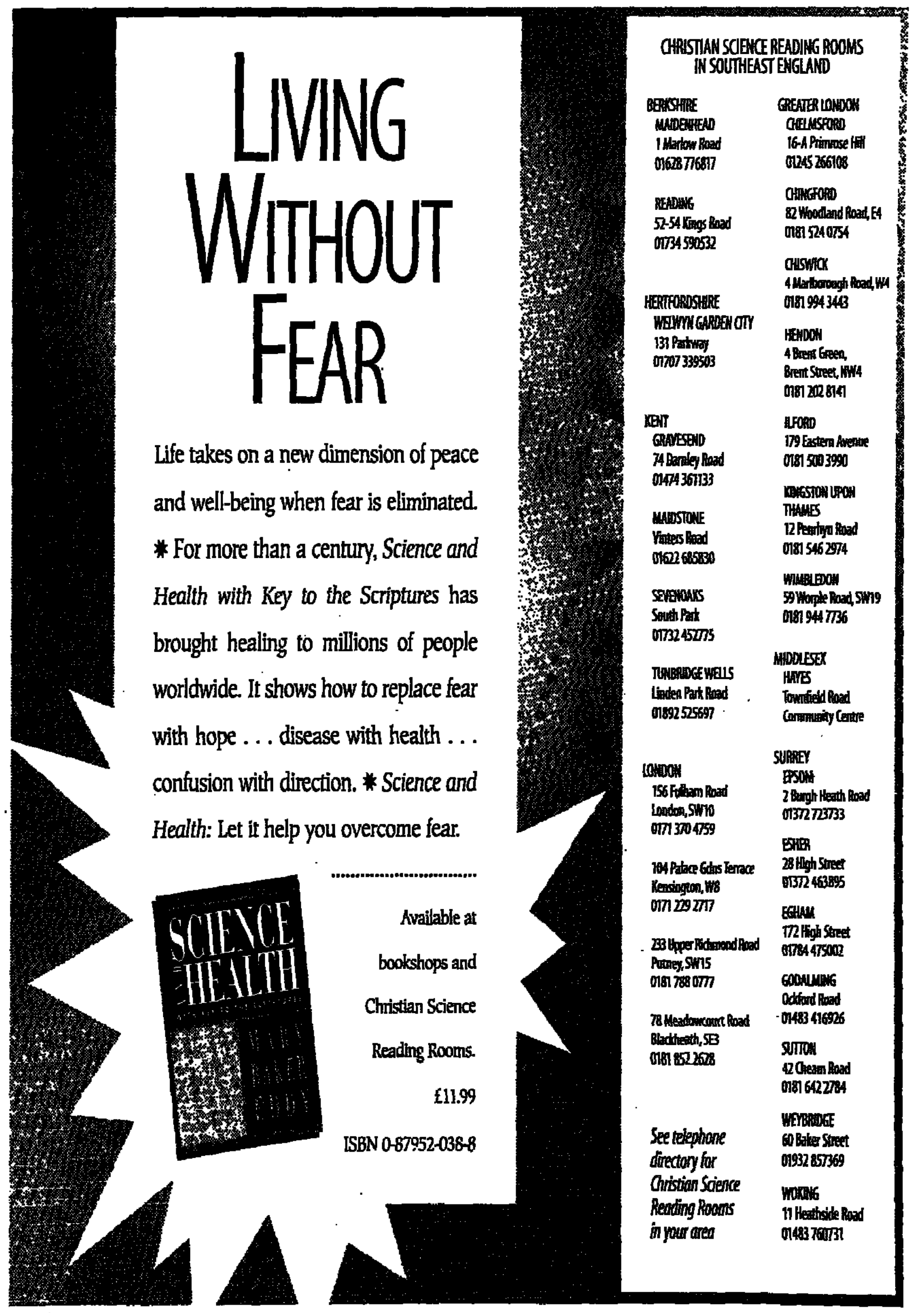
Four years ago, Torrington won the Whitbread Prize for *Swing Hammer Swing!*, the novel he had been toiling at for years and years. *The Devil's Carousel*, by contrast, has the air of a carelessly assembled, Friday-afternoon job, although it does have some fine moments — and at least it is not set on a university campus or in a writer's study.

HARRY RITCHIE

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Peter Ackroyd on the sexual enigma of George Bernard Shaw; Derwent May on the journals of Anthony Powell; Ben Macintyre on the first private eye; plus Philip Hensher's *Kitchen Venom* reviewed



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11 Heathside Road
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GOING OUT

CHILDREN

■ **LONDON**
Banana Theatre Club
Drama workshop every Saturday morning for four to 12 year-olds.
Jermyn Street Theatre,
Jermyn Street, SW1 (0171-287 2875). Today 10am-1pm; £5.

Big Jackie & the Beanstalk
Adapted from the fairy tale.
Tricycle Theatre,
Kilburn High Road, NW6 7JR (0171-328 1000). Today 11.30am & 2pm; £3, concs £2.

The Marsh King's Daughter
Adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen tale. For children ages six and over.
Little Angel Marionette Theatre,
Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, N1 (0171-226 1787). Today/tomorrow 3pm; £6, concs £5.

National Young Playwright Competition.
Awards presentation and readings of the winning plays.
Unicorn Arts Theatre For Children,
Great Newport Street, WC2H 7JB (0171-836 3334). Tomorrow 11am; free.

Stig of the Dump
Clive King's story about the life of a boy from the Stone Age.
Unicorn Arts Theatre For Children,
Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334). Today, 11am & 2.30pm, Tomorrow, 2.30pm; £5-£8.75, concs available.

The Three Billy Goats Gruff & Others Tales
Children's favourites.
Puppet Theatre Barge,
Little Venice, Blomfield Road, W9 (0171-249 6876). Today/tomorrow 3pm: £5.50, concs £5.

Tower Bridge
The fascinating history of Tower Bridge. Recommended for the whole family.
Tower Bridge,
SE1 (0171-403 3761). Mon-Sun 10am-5.15pm; £5, concs £3.50.

The Star Trek exhibition at Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry has a model of the USS Enterprise

■ **REGIONAL**
BOURNEMOUTH
Beauty & The Beast on Ice.
With music and lyrics by David Essex and featuring a host of former World skating champions.
Pavilion Theatre,
Westover Road (01202-297297). Today/tomorrow 2.30pm & 7.30pm; £8.50-£16.50.

CHEPSTOW
Dinosaur Roadshow.
Interactive entertainment brings prehistoric times to life in this family exhibition.
Drill Hall,
Lower Church Street (01291-625981). Today/tomorrow 11am-5pm; £1, concs 50p, under-18's & Monmouth Borough Residents free.

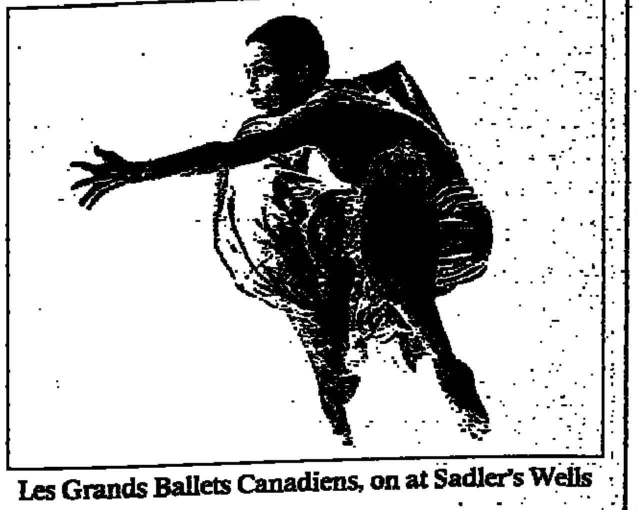
COLERAINE
Cairn Kids Youth Theatre: My Fair Lady.
The musical version of George Bernard Shaw's classic *Pygmalion* is recounted on stage by 100 young actors.
Riverside Theatre,
University Of Coleraine (01265-51388). Today 8pm; £5.

MANCHESTER
Star Trek — The Exhibition
Join fellow trekkies in the full-size set of the Star Trek transporter room and get beamed away by the exhibits which include a model of the USS Enterprise.
Museum of Science & Industry,
Liverpool Road (0161-832 2244). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; £5, concs £3, under 5's free.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
Science Factory
Science centre for children.
Discovery Museum,
Blandford Square (0191-2326789). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; free.

DANCE

HUGO GLENDENNING



Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, on at Sadler's Wells

■ **LONDON**
Bedlam Dance Company: Yes! Yes? & Yes . . .
Exploring conflict and negotiation.
Place Theatre,
Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-387 0031). Today 8pm; £8, concs £6.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS
A rare revival of William Forsythe's first ballet, to Mahler music, is on tonight's final programme of the London season, also Jiri Kylian's thrilling Janaçek *Sinfonietta*. A sleek young company trying to revitalise the modern ballet tradition, it goes on during the coming week to His Majestys Theatre Aberdeen and the Kings Theatre Glasgow.
John Percival
Sadler's Wells Theatre,
Rosebery Avenue,
London EC1 (0171-713 6000) today at 7.30pm; £7.50-£17.50. Concs. £10.

Tap Dogs
Macho Australian tap dance revue.
Lyric Theatre,
Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Tonight 6pm & 8.45pm; £5-£22.50.

■ **REGIONAL**

ALDEBURGH
Phoenix Dance Company
Jazz by Orphy Robinson accompanies *Movements in 8*, and Chantal Donaldson's *Never Still*.
Snape Maltings Concert Hall,
(01728 453543). Today 7.30pm; £5-£10, concs £3-£8.

BROMLEY
London City Ballet: Cinderella.
A new production by Matthew Hart.
Churchill Theatre,
High Street (0181-460 6677). Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm; £12-£17, concs available.

HULL
Scottish Ballet: La Sylphide/Ae Fond Kiss.
Bournonville's tale of seduction in the highlands.
New Theatre,
Kingston Square (01482-226655). Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm; £5.50-£25.

LANCASTER
Clerkinworks: Sods in Space.
Subtitled the Science of Irish Dance.
Dukes Playhouse,
Moor Lane (01524-66645). Today 7.30pm; phone for details.

OXFORD
CandoCo
Troupe with able-bodied and disabled dancers.
Pegasus Theatre,
Magdalen Road (01865-722851). Today, phone for details.

SEVENOAKS
Hot Tap.
Community-based dance.
Stag Theatre,
London Road (01732-450175). Today 7.30pm; £5, concs £3.50.

SHEFFIELD
Northern Ballet Theatre: Don Quixote.
Cervantes' classic tragi-comic romance.
Lyceum Theatre,
Norfolk Street (0114-276 9922). Today 7.45pm; £8-£20.

STOCKPORT
Adonais Ballet Company: Arabian Nights.
A new ballet by Jan Kitteridge.
Davenport,
Buxton Road (0161-483 3801). Today 7.30pm; £7.50-£9.50.

POP

■ **LONDON**
Blaggers ITA, Near Death Experience, Potlatch
Punk with a political edge.
Underworld, World's End,
Camden High Street, NW1 (0171-482 1932). Today 7.30pm: £5.

The Brotherhood of Man
Memorable sugar-sweet pop classics.
The Grand,
Clapham Junction, SW11 (0171-738 9000). Today 8pm; £7.

Wilko Johnson Band
The former Feelgood guitar man.
The Standard,
Blackhorse Lane, E17 (0181-523 0055). Today 8pm; £5.

Barry Manilow
Cabaret schmaltz at its finest.
Wembley Arena,
Empire Way (0181-900 1234). Today/tomorrow 6.30pm; £12.50-£35.

New Model Army, Det-Ri-Mental
Folk and punk groups play a Newbury by-pass benefit concert.
Shepherd's Bush Empire,
Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0181-740 7474). Tomorrow 7pm; £10.

■ **REGIONAL**

CRITIC'S CHOICE

LONGPIGS
Fronted by charismatic singer and songwriter Crispin Hunt, Longpigs have already dented the Top 20 with their dreamy single *On and On*. But the group from Sheffield are really going to knock people back on their heels with their astounding debut album, *The Sun is Often Out* (released April 29), a transcendent collection similar in mood and tone to the mighty Radiohead album *The Bends*. Catch them while they're hot.
David Sinclair
Twa Tams,
Scott St, Perth (01738 634500), today, £2.

BIRMINGHAM
Meat Loaf
Classic rock anthems.
National Exhibition Centre,
(0121-780 4133). Today 6.30pm; £17.50-£20.

Wembley: Barry Manilow

GLASGOW
Longpigs
See Critic's Choice.
King Tut's Wah Wah Hut,
Glasgow (0141-221 5279), tomorrow.

Alanis Morissette, Honeycrack.
Young Brit Awards winner whose ethereal voice oozes angst.
Barrowland,
Gallowgate (0141-552 4601). Today 7pm; phone for availability.

HULL
Shed Seven
York group whose credible Indie sound stays outside of the Britpop arena while still scooping hits.
The Tower,
Anlaby Road (01482-323121). Tomorrow 8pm; £7.

ILFORD
The Wildhearts, Blameless
The boys return with more heavy metal mania.
Island Ilford,
High Road (0181-514 4400). Tomorrow 8pm; £9.

MANCHESTER
Leftfield
Bizarre dance troupe.
Manchester Academy,
Oxford Road (0161-275 2930). Today 9pm; £12.50.

JAZZ

■ **LONDON**
Doug Carn
Spacey 1970s soul-jazz pianist.
Jazz Café,
Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Today 7pm; £12, adv £10.

James Taylor Quartet
Acid Jazz masters in residence.
Jazz Café,
Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow 7pm; phone for availability.

George Melly performs

Magnificent Master Drummers of Africa
Thrilling drum sextet from all corners of Africa.
Purcell Room,
South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow 8pm; £10.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

GEORGE MELLY
Ignore the dismal adaptation of his memoir *Owning Up*. As a performer he remains in a louche class of his own, supported by the ever-faithful trumpeter John Chilton and his Feetwarmers. Melly must have performed the low-down *Frankie and Johnnie* a million times by now, but his vaudeville routine never fails to raise a smile.
Clive Davis
Pizza on the Park,
Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5550). Tonight, 9.15pm and 11.15pm; £18, adv £16.

Steps Ahead
Mike Manieri's dancefloor fusion, plus singer Sarah Jane Morris.
Ronnie Scott's,
Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Today 9pm; £12, mems £7.

Martin Taylor / David Grisman
Country-jazz guitarist joins avant-bluegrass mandolin virtuoso.
Wigmore Hall,
Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £7.50-£15.

■ **REGIONAL**

BIRMINGHAM
Deidre Cartwright's Blow the Fuse
Fusion guitarist on tour.
Mac,
Cannon Hill Park (0121-440 3838). Today 8pm; £7, concs £5.

Georgie Fame
1960s soul-jazz organist.
Ronnie Scott's,
Broad Street (0121-643 4525). Today 8pm; £12, concs £9, mems £5.

EDINBURGH
Dave Milligan Trio
Top post-bop pianist.
Henry's Cellar Bar,
Morrison Street (0131-221 1288). Tomorrow 8pm; free.

FAREHAM
Helen Watson Band
New-blues diva.
Ashcroft Arts Centre,
Osborne Road (01329-235161). Today 8pm; £6, concs £5.

HULL
Helen Watson Band
See Fareham.
Blue Lamp,
Norfolk Street (01482-329833). Tomorrow 8pm; £6, concs £5.

MANCHESTER
Segovia Trio
Spanish guitar virtuosos.
Royal Northern College of Music,
Oxford Road (0161-273 4504/5534). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £8, concs £6.

CLASSICAL

■ **LONDON**
Alasdair Cameron
Piano recital of Schubert, Lizst and Beethoven's last sonata.
St John's,
Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £6 & £10.

Gershwin & Co
Songs by Gershwin and others from soprano Sarah Poole and ensemble.
Purcell Room,
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today 7.30pm; £6-£10.

Kent County Youth Orchestra / Vincent
Schubert's Unfinished Symphony with Elgar's 1st.
Royal Festival Hall,
South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today 7.30pm; £6.50-£12.50.

London Symphony Chorus / Westrop
Rossini's Petite Messe Solenelle and his Choruses for female voices.
St John's,
Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Today 7.30pm; £6-£15.

LSO / Tilson Thomas
Four Stravinsky works with Ravel's Piano Concerto for Left Hand.
Barbican Hall,
Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tomorrow 3.30pm; £6-£30.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

THE MOSCOW SOLOISTS
Founded and led by the world's greatest viola player, Yuri Bashmet, the ensemble can vary rather alarmingly in performance — from sloppy to mesmeric. On their day, though, they display the best aspects of Russian string-playing: passion, power and terrific virtuosity. Their Barbican programme includes Russian music as well as Britten. Richard Morrison
Barbican,
Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891), tonight, 7.30pm, £6-£20.

Royal Philharmonic / Menuhin
Marking Lord Menuhin's 80th birthday with Mozart's 5th Violin Concerto.
Royal Albert Hall,
Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Today 7pm; £10-£65.

■ **REGIONAL**

BATH
Western Sinfonia / Stroman
Odes by Blow and Purcell, with Britten's Cantata Misericordium.
Bath Abbey,
(01225-448831). Today 7.30pm; £7, concs £5.60.

MANCHESTER
Halle / Bruggen
Mozart's Symphony No 41, and Haydn's No 104.
Free Trade Hall,
Peter Street (0161-834 1712). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £3.25-£21.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra / Kreizberg
Schumann's Piano Concerto and Berlioz's Symphonie fantastique.
City Hall,
(0191-261 2606). Tomorrow 3pm; £6-£17.50.

OPERA

■ **LONDON**
Tosca
ENO's Keith Warner's staging of Puccini's opera.
London Coliseum,
St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Today 7.30pm; £8-£50.

■ **REGIONAL**

CANTERBURY
La Vie Parisienne
Lindsay Dolan directs this operatic farce by Offenbach.
Marlowe Theatre,
The Friars (01227-787787). Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm; £8.50-£24.50.

EXETER
Rigoletto
Verdi's dramatic tragedy.
Northcott Theatre,
Stocker Road (01392-493493). Today 7.30pm; £11-£21.

LEEDS
Le Roi d'Ys
Lalo's Wagnerian opera by West Riding Opera.
Civic Theatre,
Cookridge Street (0113-2476962/455505). Today 7.30pm; £6.50 & £8.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

MEDEA
Cherubini's operatic setting of Euripides's tragedy (1797) was admired by Beethoven, and, as conducted by Paul Daniel for Opera North, it could almost be by Beethoven — his is a thrilling reading of a trail-blazingly inventive score. And the title role could almost have been written for Dame Josephine Barstow, who sings a storm. Phyllida Lloyd's production is superb.
Rodney Milnes
Grand Theatre,
New Briggate, Leeds (0113 244 0971/245 9351) Today 7.15pm; £9-£36. ♿

Barstow in *Medea*

THEATRE

■ **LONDON**
The Designated Mourner
Mike Nichols makes his British acting debut in Wallace Shawn's new play. Miranda Richardson is the woman torn between her father and another man. David Hare directs.
National (Cottesloe),
South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews tonight, 8pm; mat 4pm. Opens Apr 24, 8pm. Then in rep. ♿

CRITIC'S CHOICE

SKYLIGHT
Only another week in which to catch Michael Gambon as an aggressive but troubled businessman, Lia Williams as the earnest schoolteacher with whom he hopes to relaunch an old affair, and the sharpest dialogue David Hare has written in years.
Benedict Nightingale
Wyndhams,
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Today 3pm and 8pm.

Endgame
Alun Armstrong and Stephen Dillane play Hamm and Clov in Katie Mitchell's production of middle-period Beckett.
Donmar Warehouse,
Earlham St, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Today, 4pm and 8pm. ♿

An Ideal Husband
Last night for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of sleaze and scandal.
Theatre Royal,
Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). 7.45pm; mat 3pm. ♿

Salad Days
Welcome return of Julian Slade's tuneful musical directed by Ned Sherrin.
Vaudeville,
Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Tonight, 8pm; mat 4pm.

The Shattered Vessel
Kleist's comedy about a venal judge, usually translated as *The Broken Jug*.
Riverside Studios,
Crisp Rd, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2251). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.45pm.

Tommy
Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability.
Shaftesbury,
Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 3pm. ♿

■ **REGIONAL**

EDINBURGH
Resurrection
New Maureen Lawrence play examines the relationship between Dr Samuel Johnson (Malcolm Rennie) and his black manservant, Francis Barber (Tyrone Huggins). Directed by Peeny Ciniewicz.
Traverse
Cambridge Street, Edinburgh (0131-228 1404). Tonight, 7.30pm. ♿

NOTTINGHAM
Happy End
Martin Duncan directs Brecht's awkward confrontation between Salvation Army lass and Chicago gang boss.
Playhouse,
Wellington Circus (0115-9419419). Tonight, 7.30pm. ♿

Gambon in *Skylight*

STRATFORD-ON-AVON
The White Devil
The Swan Theatre opens the 1996 season with Webster's Jacobean tragedy. Jane Gurnett plays the vigorous but doomed Vittoria. Gale Edwards directs.
Swan,
Waterside (01789 295623). Previews today, 1.30pm and 7.30pm. Opens Apr 26. In rep. ♿

NORWICH
The Last Yankee
Glen Walford directs Stephen Ley and Graham Howes in Arthur Miller's moving play.
Playhouse,
St George's Street, NR3 (01603 766466). Today,

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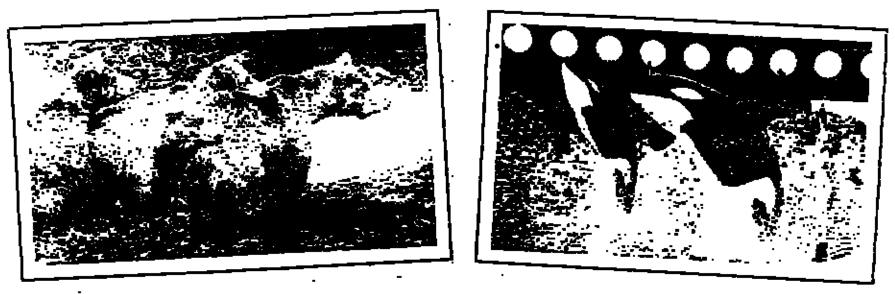

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MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

■ **LONDON**

After the Flood
Multi-media and photography by RCA graduates.
Royal College of Art,
Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-584 5020).
Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm; free.

Gustave Caillebotte: The Unknown Impressionist
An illuminating range of paintings.
Royal Academy of Arts,
Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-439 7438). Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm; £4.50, concs £3.50.

Desert
Empty spaces explored in multi-media show including Knut Maron.
South London Art Gallery,
Peckham Road, SE5 (0171-703 6120).
Today/tomorrow 2pm-6pm; free.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

BLOOD, SEA AND ICE

This may be the beginning of the Nelson decade at the National Maritime Museum. But clearly the museum does not want us to forget other great British seafarers, and the present exhibition pays tribute to three more, explorers all: Sir Francis Drake, Captain James Cook and Sir John Franklin. The show actually commemorates the 400th anniversary of Drake's death, but it probably seemed politic to throw in the other two. Still, the most exciting and evocative things are in Drake's section.

John Russell Taylor

National Maritime Museum,
Greenwich, London SE10 (0181-858 4422)
Today 10am-6pm, tomorrow 2-6pm; £5.50, concs £4.50.

Spellbound: Art & Film
The talents of artists and directors.
Hayward Gallery,
Belvedere Road, SE1 (0171-960 4242).
Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm; £5, concs £3.50.

Rachel Whiteread
Long-awaited new prints from the controversial Turner Prize winner.
Karsten Schubert,
Foley Street, W1 (0171-631 0031/580 3546).
Today 10am-3pm; free.

■ **REGIONAL**

DURHAM
Flesh & Spirit: Velasquez & Painters in 17th Century Madrid
Work from the Golden Age of Spanish painting.
Bowes Museum,
(01833 690606). Today 10am-5pm, tomorrow 2pm-5pm; phone for prices.

BIRMINGHAM
George Rodger: A Photographic Journey
Images from the award-winning photojournalist.
The Gas Hall,
Chamberlain Square (0121-235 1966).
Today 10am-5pm, Tomorrow 12.30pm-5pm; £2.50, concs £1.50.

LEEDS
Jasper Johns: The Sculptures
Sculptures by the pop artist.
Henry Moore Institute,
The Headrow (0113-246 7467). Today 10am-5.30pm; free.

LIVERPOOL
Home and Away: Internationalism and British Art 1900-1990
Exploration of boundaries and geographies.
Tate Gallery Liverpool,
Albert Dock (0151-709 3223).
Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm; free.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
George Baselitz
Paintings by the master of Neo-Expressionism.
Gallery,
University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Sandyford Road (0191-227 4424). Today 10am-4pm; free.

WAKEFIELD
Max Ernst
Featuring sculpture and drawings by the influential Surrealist.
Yorkshire Sculpture Park,
Bretton Hall (01924 830302).
Today/tomorrow 10am-4pm; free.

MAGNUM

Doorway to a Kondofan House, 1949, from photojournalist George Rodger's exhibition

COMING SOON

KATZ

Miranda Richardson is Orlando in Edinburgh

■ **LONDON AND REGIONAL**

BRIGHTON
May 4-26
Brighton Festival 96.
Highlights include The Maly Theatre of St Petersburg in *Gaudeamus* (May 7-11, Corn Exchange Theatre). Box Office: 01273-709709.

EDINBURGH
August 11-31
Edinburgh 50th International Festival.
Box-office opens today for telephone bookings (0131-225 5756).
Highlights include Miranda Richardson in Robert Wilson's adaptation of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Aug 13-21).

May 6
Billy Bragg, The Brotherhood, Transglobal Underground.
Clapham Common, noon-8pm, free.

May 9-August 18
Derek Jarman — artist, film-maker, designer.
A Jarman retrospective at the Barbican Art Gallery coinciding with a Barbican Cinema season of his films, May 11-12, 18-19, and 25-26. Box Office: 0171-382 7000.

May 22-August 26
Degas — Beyond Impressionism.
Major retrospective at the National Gallery. Advance bookings: 0171-420 0000.

From May 9
Sylvia.
Zoe Wanamaker plays the title role in A.R. Gurney's hit romantic comedy, directed by Michael Blakemore. Apollo Theatre. Box Office: 0171-494 5070.

May
kd lang.
Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool (May 5, 0151-709 3789); Brighton Centre (May 6, 01273 202881); Bournemouth International Centre (May 7, 01202 297297); Wembley Arena, London (May 9-11, 0181-900 1234).

FILM

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

■ **NEW RELEASES**

CRITIC'S CHOICE

NELLY & MONSIEUR ARNAUD (PG)

Claude Sautet's subtle and tender study of an older man and a younger woman who edge towards intimacy. He (Michel Serrault) is a retired colonial judge, she (Emmanuelle Beart) is a 25 year-old brimming with unfulfilled desires. There is no sex; just hesitations and a secret caress wonderfully conveyed, and a veteran director on top form.

Geoff Brown

Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720); *Gate Notting Hill* (0171-727 4043); *Richmond* (0181-332 0030); *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121); *Screen on the Hill* (0171-435 3366).

◆ **Before and After** (12)
Glum family drama with Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson as parents of a teenager accused of murder. Director, Barbet Schroder.
Odeons: Kensington (01426-914 666), *Leicester Square* (01426-915 683), *Swiss Cottage* (0171-586 3057).

Smoke (15)
Criss-crossing lives in Brooklyn. Agreeable piece by Paul Auster, with Harvey Keitel. Director, Wayne Wang.
Everyman Ⓢ (0171-435 1525); *Lumiere* (0171-836 0691); *MGM Fulham Road* Ⓢ (0171-370 2636); *Renoir* (0171-837 8402); *Richmond* (0181-332 0030); *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121); *UCI Whiteleys* Ⓢ (0171-792 3332).

◆ **Twelve Monkeys** (15)
Unwieldy extravaganza from former Monty Python collaborator Terry Gilliam, with Bruce Willis as the shaven-headed time-traveller seeking the source of a virus. With Madeleine Stowe and Brad Pitt.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891); *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323); *MGMs: Baker Street* (0171-935 9772), *Fulham Road* Ⓢ (0171-370 2636), *Shaftesbury Avenue* (0171-836 6279), *Trocadero* (0171-434 0031); *Notting Hill Coronet* Ⓢ (0171-727 6705); *Odeon Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098); *Plaza* (0800-888 997); *Rio* (0171-254 6677); *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121); *UCI Whiteleys* Ⓢ (0171-792 3332); *Warner West End* (0171-437 4343).

Michel Serrault on screen

Unzipped (15)
Exuberant fashion documentary about designer Isaac Mizrahi as he creates a new collection. Director, Douglas Keeve.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636), *Shaftesbury Avenue* (0171-836 6279); *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121).

■ **CURRENT**

◆ **Broken Arrow** (15)
John Travolta steals nuclear weapons; Christian Slater tries to get them back. Bumptious and brainless action movie, directed by John Woo.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772), *Chelsea* (0171-352 5096); *Odeons: Kensington* (01426 914666), *Marble Arch* (01426 914501), *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098), *West End* (01426-915 574); *UCI Whiteleys* Ⓢ (0171-792 3332).

◆ **Mighty Aphrodite** (15)
Woody Allen searches for his talented adopted son's natural mother, and finds a tart. Engaging variation on old themes, with Oscar-winner Mira Sorvino.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891); *Chelsea* (0171-351 3742) *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323); *Odeons: Haymarket* (01426 915353), *Kensington* (01426 914666), *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098); *Phoenix* (0181-883 2233); *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121); *Screen/ Baker Street* (0171-935 2772); *Screen/Green* (0171-226 3520); *UCI Whiteleys* Ⓢ (0171-792 3332); *Warner West End* (0171-437 4343).

Small Faces (18)
Gillies and Billy MacKinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood among teenage gang warfare in the late 1960s, largely cast with local talent.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096), *Haymarket* (0171-839 1527), *Tottenham Court Road* (0171-636 6148); *Warner* Ⓢ (0171-437 4343).

FAIRS

■ **LONDON**

Chelsea Arts Fair
Over 35 exhibitors sell their wares, ranging from the traditional and the classical to contemporary paintings and sculptures.
Chelsea Old Town Hall,
King's Road, SW3 (0171-352 3619). Today 11am-6pm, Tomorrow 11am-5pm; £3.

London Book Fair
Wide collection of secondhand, rare and antiquarian books, maps, engraved and decorative prints.
Royal National Theatre Foyer,
South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2253). Today 11am-7.15pm; free.
Royal Geographical Society,
Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 5466). Tomorrow 11am-5pm; free.

Third Annual Unconvention
Spooky annual conference of strange phenomenon with this year's main theme focusing on UFO's and Government, Conspiracy and Cover-Up.
University of London Institute of Education,
Bedford Way, WC1 (0171-470 2407). Today/tomorrow, phone for details; two-day ticket £25, one-day £15.

■ **REGIONAL**

EDINBURGH
Serving Suggestions
Festival of Moving Image Media.
Filmhouse, Lothian Road (0131-556 2044).
Today/tomorrow, phone for details; £2-£4.

POETRY

■ **LONDON**

Galaxy of Poets from Pakistan.
Led by Qasim Pirzada.
Queen Elizabeth Hall,
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today 7.45pm; £8-£12, concs available.

This Day's Delight
An evening of verse and prose.
The Orangery, Kenwood House,
Hampstead Lane, NW3 (0171-413 1443). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £6.50-£12.50, concs £5-£9.50.

■ **REGIONAL**

BARROW-IN-FURNESS
The First Word-of-Mouth Festival. American Poets and Publishing (today 10am; £1) and Sarah Miller performing *Eve's Diary* with Henry Normal (today 7.30pm; £5). *The Giant Book of Barrow* is launched (today 2pm, free).
Forum 28,
Duke Street (01229 820 000).

BEDFORD
Don Paterson
Poetry workshop (today 10am-3pm; £10, concs £7); Paterson reading (tonight 7.30pm, £3, concs £2).
Bedford Central Library,
Harpur Street (01234-269519).

RELIGION

Walking the edge — holding the centre
The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Rev Roy Williamson, is inviting parishioners to join him for part of his 110-mile walk through the 77 parishes on or near the boundary of his Diocese. This weekend he will reach Felbridge near East Grinstead and will then turn westward to Charlwood, near Gatwick, then north through Tadworth and the Kingston area (April 25) before following the Thames eastwards and returning to Southwark on April 26.
Further information:
Patrick Olivier, 0171-403 8686

Wallenberg Sabbath
Synagogues of all denominations are designating today, Saturday, which falls between Holocaust Memorial Day and Israel's Independence Day, as Wallenberg Sabbath. Raoul Wallenberg was the Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of thousands of Jews in Hungary towards the end of the Second World War and today rabbis will speak of his selflessness and invite donations to the Wallenberg Appeal. The appeal, set up by the International Council for Christians and Jews and administered by the Holocaust Education Trust, is to raise money to build a permanent London memorial to Wallenberg.
Further information:
Michael Wohl, 0171-485 2538.

COMEDY

■ **LONDON**

Banana Cabaret
With Sean Meo, Woody Bop Muddy, Simon Fox, Noel James.
The Bedford,
Bedford Hill, SW12 (0181-673 1756). Today 9pm; £6, concs £4.

Chuckle Club
Featuring Hattie Hayridge and Owen O'Neill.
London School of Economics,
Houghton Street, WC2 (0171-476 1672). Today 7.45pm; £6, students £4.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

COMEDY STORE PLAYERS

Surely the National Theatre of stand-up, London's long-established yet ever-alternative Comedy Store is a safe bet for anyone who likes to crease up of a Sunday. Tonight the venue's star team, the Comedy Store Players, improvise fresh funny business. A chance to witness Lee Simpson, Richard Vranch, Jim Sweeney, Neil Mullarkey and the impossibly amusing Paul Merton thinking on their feet and flexing their wits en masse.

Kate Bassett

The Comedy Store,
Haymarket House,
Oxendon St, SW1 (info: 01426-914433, bookings: 0171-344 4444). Today, 8pm (doors open 6.30). Tomorrow 8pm; £9.

Downstairs at the King's Head
With Helen Austin, Steve Brody and Paul Rogan.
King's Head,
Crouch End Hill, N8 (0181-340 1028). Tomorrow 8.30pm; £4.50, concs £3.50.

Ha Bloody Ha
Featuring Sean Percival, Matthew Hardy, Ian Stone and Paul B Edwards.
The Viaduct,
Uxbridge Road, W7 (0181-566 4067). Today 9pm; £5, concs £4.

London: Hattie Hayridge

Jongleurs Camden
Established venue plays host to Mickey Hutton and Dominic Holland.
Jongleurs Comedy,
Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-924 2766). Today 7.15pm & 11.15pm; £10, concs £7.

The Quality Shag
Armstrong & Miller provide an absurd slant on life with car chases on swivel chairs and crooners from Vegas.
Latchmere Theatre,
Battersea Park Road, SW11 (0171-228 2620). Today 10.30pm; £6, concs £4.

Up The Creek
Popular Greenwich haunt features Malcolm Hardee, Parrot, Milton Jones and Al Murray.
Up The Creek,
Creek Road, SE10 (0181-858 4581). Tomorrow 9pm; £6, concs £4.

■ **REGIONAL**

BIRMINGHAM
Glee Club
With Phil Davey, Andy Robinson, Paddy Keilty and Ivor Dembina.
The Glee Club,
Hurst Street (0121-622 2248). Today 8.30pm; £8.50.

BRACKNELL
Friday Alternative
Their 10th-anniversary bash includes the Theatre of Fruit, Tony Hawks and John Mann.
South Hill Park Arts Centre,
Ringmead (01344 484123). Today 8pm; £6.

COVENTRY
The Posse
The best talent from the black-comedy circuit.
Belgrade Theatre,
Belgrade Square (01203 553055). Today 8pm; £7-£15.

POOLE
Julian Clary
The defrocked queen of double-entendre, in a new guise.
Poole Arts Centre,
Kingland Road (01202 685222). Today 8pm; £11.50.

Ruth Gledhill celebrates the presence of young Christians in church

Take away food for thought

IN THE flickering shadows of the darkly lit nave in this one-time Benedictine abbey, teenage girls swung, swayed and jived to the music. We sat on icy cold flagstones or embroidered kneelers and watched. In the gloomy but romantic medieval nave of St Alban's Cathedral, this was a special youth service, one of many initiatives being used by the Church of England to bring back its legions of baptised but alienated youngsters. Church attendance by young people had fallen by a third in seven years, according to a church report earlier this month.

As is fashionable today, the youngsters, visiting from as far afield as Finland, had dressed themselves as unattractively as possible in baggy jeans, unmatching and equally-baggy sweaters and ungainly, clod-hopping shoes and trainers. But at least they were in church.

Holding enormous white candles before them, priests robed in red waited in procession in the nave as the young women mimed the motions of a line dance, country and then disco. We were invited, now standing, to renew the baptismal promises made on our behalf by godparents at our baptisms.

"Do you repent of your sins?" asked the Rev Nicholas Elder, vicar of Bedford. "Do you renounce evil," he asked. "I repent of my sins," we all responded. "I renounce evil."

He repeated the questions in German, and then asked all there to make a "profession of Christian faith". The reply: "We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

We were each given a candle to carry, and these were lit by passing the flame from one to another as we left the nave in procession towards this shrine, placing our candles before it with a prayer. We sat on the floor once more, by the Lady Chapel in front of the shrine, followed by youngsters carrying their home-made banners.

We sang enjoyable and meditative chants such as *Jesus, remember me* and *Jubilate Deo*, and listened to readings by youngsters from abroad, their accents giving emphasis to familiar words. "There are many rooms in my father's house and I am going to prepare a place for you," from John's gospel. "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Mr Elder preached in a humorous and sensitive style that was warmly received by his congregation. "After any special event we have to ask the question, what was the point?" he said. He compared this with how the first apostles might have felt after the Crucifixion, and upon finding the empty tomb. "We cannot hang on to good experiences for ever," said Mr Elder. "We have to go out. I leave you with the question: so what?"

Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, Sumpter Yard, St Albans, Herts, AL1 1BY (01727 860780).

● At a Service Near You, *a collection of Ruth Gledhill's At Your Service columns in* The Times, *is now on sale (Hodder & Stoughton, £7.99).*

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

DEAN: The Very Rev Christopher Lewis

ARCHITECTURE: Austere building, a strange mixture of styles ranging from Early English to Victorian. ★★★

SERMON: A reflection on whether there was any point to anything, including the Resurrection. ★★★

MUSIC: Remarkable chants and hymns from a mixed choir, with some of the most beautiful girls' voices I've heard in church. ★★★★★

LITURGY: Pleasant feeling of floating freestyle through familiar forms. ★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: One of the country's best cathedral restaurants is open during the day. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Preferable to drink or drugs. ★★★★★

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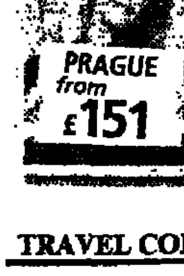

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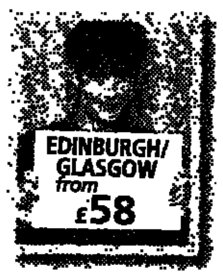

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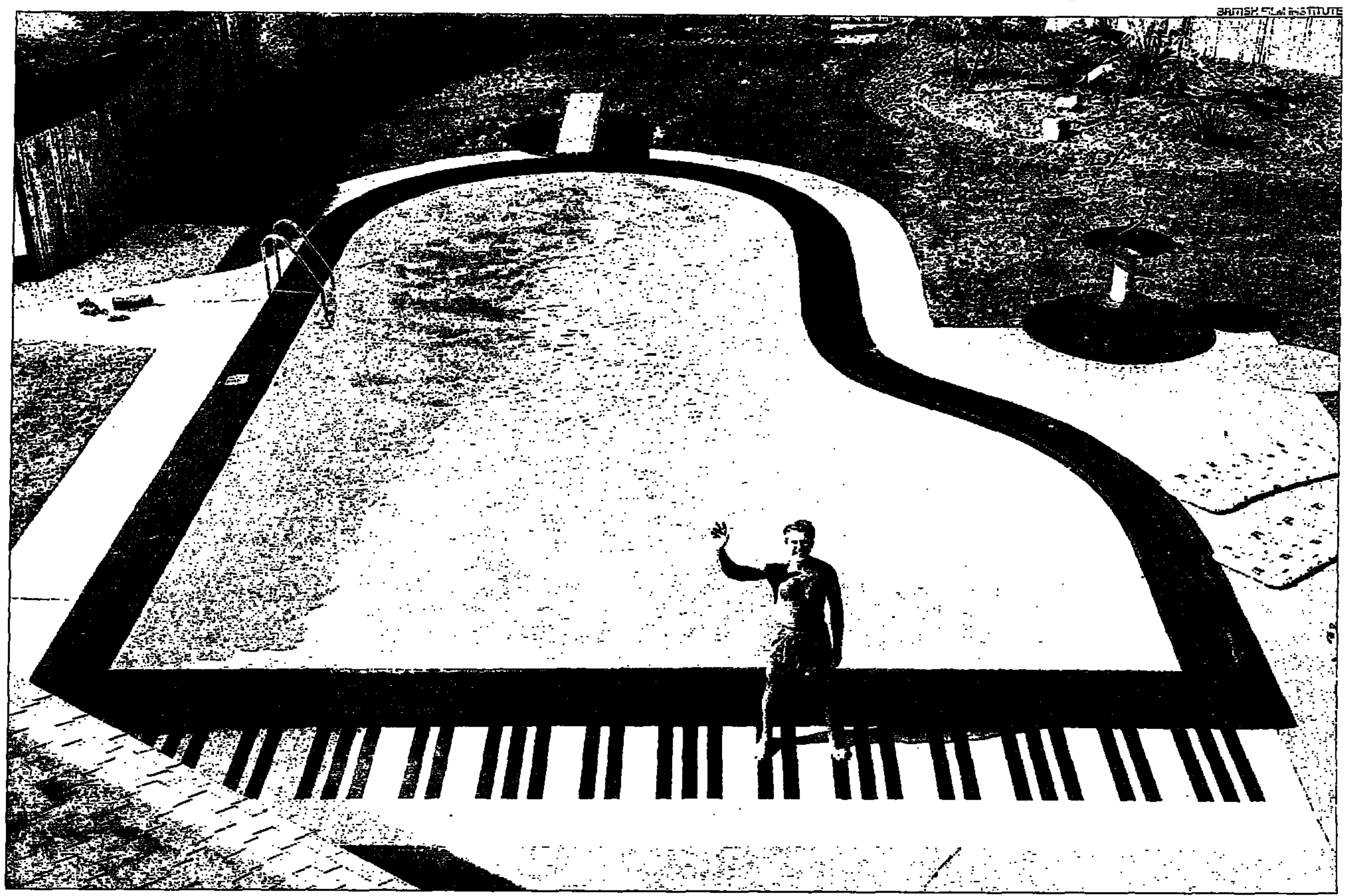
Palm Springs: the Hollywood brat packs have gone, **Peter Hughes** says. The new obsession is 'life extension'

Come back Errol Flynn, all is forgiven



BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE

Sounding a chord from Palm Springs's starry past is Liberace's pool in the shape of a grand piano. The closest you come to the old voluptuousness is on an $11 tour of celebrities' homes

At Palm Springs airport the first thing you see is a rank of wheelchairs at the foot of the aircraft steps. Each has an attendant in a white shirt and topee. The second thing is a bronze bust of Ronald Reagan on sale in a showcase. The third — and we have reached the passenger terminal now — is a golf shop beside an open-air putting green, with real grass. Health, Hollywood and golf: Palm Springs has slipped you three of its icons before you've even recovered your suitcase.

The town lies quartered like tiles on the floor of a wide desert valley 107 miles southeast of Los Angeles. Half of it is owned by the Cahuilla Native Americans who, in the 1870s, were handed huge tracts of desert by the US Government as part of the deal to build a railroad.

What began as a patronising offer, considering the Cahuillas thought they owned the land already, turned out to be one of the great windfalls of history. One century's desert is another's real estate, and the Palm Springs Cahuillas, whose rents come tax-free, are now the richest Native Americans in the US. Of the 700 known millionaires in the Coachella Valley, a third are said to be Native Americans.

Palm Springs hasn't quite discovered the secret of eternal old age but it's working on it. Even the desert tours are preoccupied with the medicinal uses the Cahuillas found for every root and leaf.

The buildings along Palm Canyon Drive look like the first ones put up in the 1930s which, in turn, were modelled on the Spanish-Californian style of the 19th century.

In winter — if that is the word in 80F — the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies plays a six-month season at the Plaza Theatre with a chorus line of "showgirls" aged between 50 and 80. Clinics of one description or another, from the Betty Ford Center at Rancho Mirage to the hospital wing donated by Frank Sinatra, fill pages of the phone book, reaching an apotheosis in the Palm Springs Life Extension Institute.

In this town, no building may be taller than a palm tree, and none is so vulgar as a motel; there are only hotels, inns or lodges. Water in the valley is so bountiful that in summer, when the temperature reaches 120F, you come within a whisker of outdoor air conditioning: "misters" play fine spray over the sidewalks to cool pedestrians.

The sun shines every day, the air is Kodak clear, and the big, crinkled mountains loll around the edge of town as brown and dry as old pumice.

FACT FILE

- **American Airlines** (0345 789789) flies daily to Palm Springs from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Birmingham. Return fares start at £460.
- **American Airlines** Holidays (0181-577 9966) offers fly-drive packages from £375, plus taxes. Minimum, seven days.
- **At Palm Springs**, temperatures between June and September can be furnace-like, though there is little humidity. It has about 3in of rain a year. The film festival is in early January.
- **A trip into the hills** and canyons is a must. *Star Wars* and *Planet of the Apes* are among the films shot here. Desert Adventures of Palm Springs (619 864 6530) runs a variety of 4x4 tours in flame-red Jeeps. You feel the guides belong to the West; they are both knowledgeable and laconic — "In these parts everything bites, sticks, stinks or stings."
- **The Palm Springs** Aerial Tramway ascends a sheer ravine in the valley wall to the 8,500ft summit of Mount Jacinto. (It was built, in 1963, by a company based in Switzerland called Roll, which, deliciously, makes it the Swiss Roll company.) The area has been a film location for *Colombo* and *Mission Impossible*. At the top there are hiking trails in the State Park and, in winter, cross-country skiing.
- **For general** information, contact Palm Springs Tourism in London (0171-978 5233).

The San Bernardino Fault runs along one valley wall, but without knowing what I was looking for I couldn't see it. I felt it. Or rather I felt the instability that lies beneath it. On my first night there was a small earth tremor, but then Palm Springs has earth tremors like Ireland has showers.

There is a seismograph in the Desert Museum which people consult as casually as they would a barometer in Ballyshannon. Little else but nature shakes the place these days. In the 1930s and 1940s things were different. Clark Gable and Carole Lombard honeymooned at the Ingleside Inn and Errol Flynn built a hotel, which burnt down, where he and his cronies could roister uninterrupted.

The actors Ralph Bellamy and Charlie Farrell opened the Racquet Club after the Desert Inn threw them out for keeping Marlene Dietrich off the tennis court. The "it" girl, Clara Bow, stayed at the El Mirador, where there was almost enough "it" going on to jog the Richter scale. As the caustic columnist Dorothy Parker observed: in most resorts you lay on the sand and looked at the stars; in Palm Springs you lay on the stars and looked at the sand.

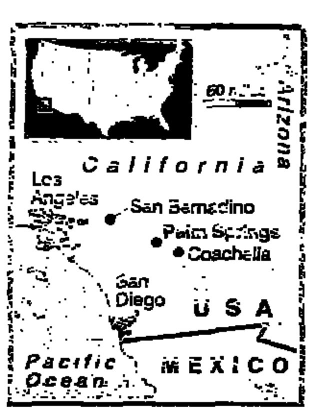
Today the buzz and titillation of the tennis court has been replaced by the bromide of the golf course — about 90 of them — and on the site of the El Mirador there is, inevitably, a hospital.

The closest you come to the old voluptuousness is on a $11 Celebrity Tour. It promises the sight of up to 45 celebrity homes "up close". What you see are the walls of houses where celebrities used to live.

There is Bing Crosby's wall, and the wall behind which Barbara Hutton, the Woolworth heiress, lived with Cary Grant. "Cash and Cary", said Tom Colgan, the guide.

Jack Benny built Palm Springs' first floodlit tennis court behind a wall which was later owned by Barry Manilow; Elvis and Priscilla spent their honeymoon behind another: their bedroom can still be rented. There is the wall behind which Liberace debauched and then died. His pool is in the shape of a grand piano and an 8ft candelabra stands at the front door. "Liberace was very well thought of here," Tom said.

The longest wall belonged to Liz Taylor and Mike Todd; Greta Garbo, perversely, had a wooden fence. The house of Lee Remick's brother, an architect, is the ultimate wall. With no windows, it is all wall.



> ❛ The buzz of the tennis court has been replaced by the bromide of the golf course ❜

Palm Springs drops names faster than trees shed leaves. Goldie Hawn and Kirk Douglas are among the stars who have houses there. Bob Hope owns three homes in the valley as well as entire mountainsides, bought before there was a market in mountains. His most spectacular property squats beneath a mushroom-shaped roof on a mountain ridge. "Bob doesn't live up there. He just parties there," Tom confided. "He can have 300 for a sit-down dinner."

If you can't achieve immortality by having Celebrity Tour buses routed past your wall, you can always give an enclosure to the Living Desert Wildlife Park. Instead of the house where Spencer Tracy lived, there is the Hutchins Pond, home to the desert pupfish and given in memory of one Harley Hutchins. The black vulture lives in a cage commemorating E.J. Spielman; the acorn woodpecker owes its home to Shawn Harvego, and the late Alma Amberson Wright would be proud to think that her name is attached in perpetuity to Coyote Grotto.

At least the inhabitants of the Living Desert and their benefactors are not subject to the caprice of fashion in the same way that Hollywood veterans are. Spielman and the black vulture would seem to have a slightly more secure toehold on eternity than Gene Autry, the octogenarian singing cowboy.

The western-style Autry Hotel at the end of Palm Canyon Drive, which the star bought in 1964, has just been reopened as the Givency Hotel and Spa. It is modelled on the Givency spa at Versailles, with a French chef, formal gardens, balustrades and fragrances. Goodbye wagon-wheel bar tables, hello aromatherapy.

Palm Springs' "life extension" no longer lies in being a sort of sandpit where the Hollywood brat pack played. These days the stars come from Michelin.

PETER HUGHES

● *The author was a guest of Palm Springs and American Airlines.*

Dream with the stars

ARTISTS, driven out by the movie colony 60 years ago, are returning to Palm Springs for the same reasons that they came in the first place: the light, the heat, the desert and the isolation.

They are staying in the same bungalows and rooms that Greta Garbo or Clark Gable once relaxed in. Investment has poured into hideaway hotels that had fallen into decline in the past few years.

The Korakia, built in 1924 and where Winston Churchill painted in an upstairs art studio, re-opened as a 12-roomed hotel three years ago. Four-poster feather beds, beamed ceilings and oriental rugs are among its features. Its owner, Doug Smith, an architect who once ran a café on the Greek island of Spetses, is host to the arts, music and film people.

Palm Springs' desert museum

In the town centre, within walking distance of the small hotels, there are 65 restaurants, compared with 30 five years ago. In 1990 there was only one café with tables outside; now there are more than 20.

"We are losing a lot of commercial properties and adding more entertainment-type properties," says Bob Weithorn, manager of the Orchard Tree Inn. "Palm Springs is getting back to the way it was."

The Orchard Tree is a small hotel on which $1 million (about £650,000) has been spent in recent years but which has retained its 1934 tile-roofed Spanish bungalows. Tall palms fringe the pool, once the hangout of William Holden and Troy Donahue, and now the setting for fashion photographic sessions.

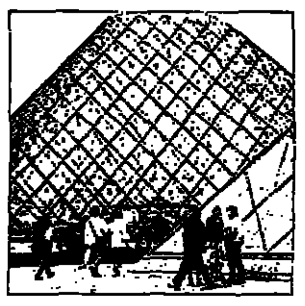
At the Estrella Inn (Gable, Carole Lombard, Roosevelt) on the same road, a further $1 million has been spent. Octagonal wooden studios with fireplaces are among the 74 rooms. Outside, there are 40 fruit trees, a rose garden and three pools.

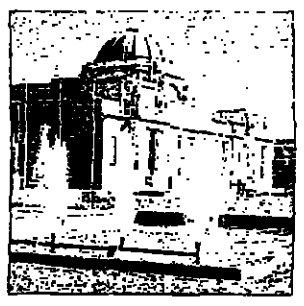
Most hotels are set in lush sub-tropical grounds in the same neighbourhood, nestled against the base of the Jacinto Mountain but within a five-minute stroll to the main Palm Canyon Drive and the town centre.

Mostly they offer breakfast only, with guests walking to restaurants or cooking for themselves — most rooms have kitchen facilities, with teabags for guests.

STEVE KEENAN

● *The author was a guest of Palm Springs and TWA (0171-439-0707), which flies to Los Angeles from £310 return. The Orchard Tree charges $33-$125 (£22-£110) per room from June-October, $63-$190 in winter. The Estrella, $65-$165 in July-August and $75-$165 at other times (from $93 to the end of April). The Korakia charges from $52-$115 year-round. Hotel tax is 10.1 per cent on top.*





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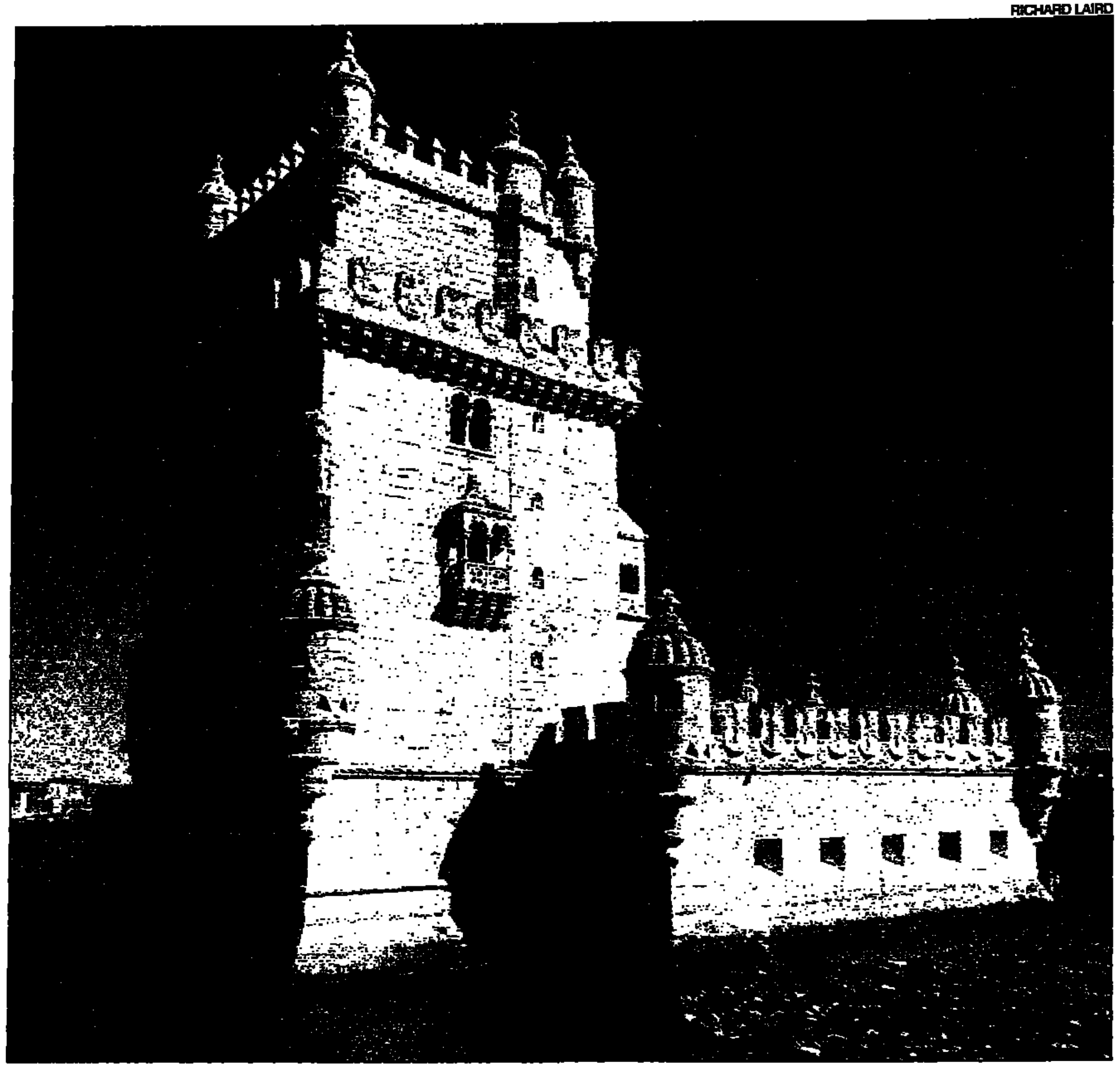
Fading glories of a busy port



RICHARD LAIRD

The Belem Tower fortress beside the Tagus, from which Vasco da Gama is said to have sailed on his voyages of discovery

When they ask for your papers at Portuguese ports of entry, don't make the mistake of handing over your passport — it's your golfer's handicap certificate they're after. It's a popular joke, and understandable.

But whatever else the country's golfing boom of the past 20 years has achieved — there are 17 courses on the Algarve coast alone — it has done little for Portugal's hinterland and the capital, Lisbon, except to leave them ripe for discovery.

Some tour operators are looking beyond Portugal's fairways. "Rather like the costas in Spain, many people assume Portugal *is* the Algarve," says Patrick Fleming, of the Magic of Portugal. "We emphasise rural tourism in little-known areas such as the Alentejo ('Beyond the Tagus')."

Meanwhile, the expanding range of more than 60 *pousadas* — the accommodation in historic buildings such as the 15th-century Convent of Loios in Évora — looks set to emulate the success of Spain's *paradors*. The volume of traffic is low outside the cities, car hire is cheap, and the main danger is locals who treat the road network as an extension of the Formula One circuit at Estoril, near Lisbon.

With one million inhabitants and a convenient airport, Lisbon is one of Europe's most manageable capitals. It is also one of the most attractive, opting for atmospheric dilapidation rather than brutish modernisation. Within minutes of landing, the airport bus noses between flamboyant buildings painted every shade of peeling pastel. Formal squares full of faintly pompous statues suffer the indignity of competing with the weekly wash hung to dry from wrought-iron balconies.

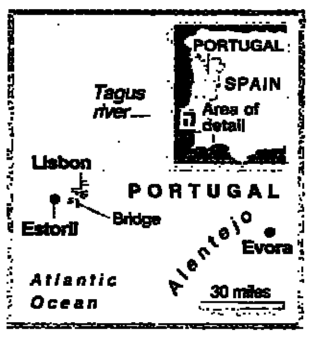
The novelist Henry Fielding called Lisbon "the nastiest city in the world". In the idyllic surroundings of the English cemetery where he is buried the outburst seems particularly cantankerous. The cemetery, one of the many backwaters and gardens that make this city such a delight to explore, is tended by an aged crone who will grant entry only to visitors who can convince her they are English.

Elsewhere, faded *azulejos*, the patterned ceramic tiles that are Lisbon's hallmark, and impressive dissident graffiti featuring flocks of obedient sheep — railing against bourgeois conformity, I suspect — have turned walls throughout the city into delightful, if incongruous, canvases.

Ancient yellow trams clatter down cobbled streets to the River Tagus. Close to it, at the Ribeira dawn market, the sounds are of old mincing machines shredding cabbages for *caldo verde*, the much-loved soup, and of flower arrangers stabbing carnation stems into blocks of oasis. Clubbers from dives in the Bairro Alto (upper town) district wash and brush-up here at the only bar serving hot chocolate at this time of the morning, while stallholders doze on their stools.

Amid the profusion of flowers, vegetables and fish are piles of dried discs of salted codfish or *bacalhau*, the national dish. "The Portuguese are proud of their sea-faring roots," said Carlos, our bus driver. "We have eaten *bacalhau* ever since the pioneer sailors ate it in the age of discovery." Which struck me as akin to the British creating a national cuisine around hardtack and weevils.

For better ways of appreciating Portugal's maritime tradition, visitors head for the Lisbon suburb of Belem. Here, not far from the fairy-tale fortress called Belem Tower, Vasco da Gama is said to have left for his travels. Here, too, is the monastery of Jeronimo, the crowning glory of the country's distinctive Manueline style. Inside, the walls are a riot of carved cables, swags of seaweed, anchors, shells and strange sea creatures.



In the evening, the place to go is the Bairro Alto, best reached by the Elevador da Gloria, a tram-cum-funicular that is an experience in itself. At the top the views of the city lights are impressive, and the splendid Port Wine Institute just happens to be directly opposite.

Here the country's entire range of ports — dry whites, medium tawnies, sweet young rubies — can be sampled from 50p a glass. This is an excellent way of steeling yourself for the inevitable run-in with *bacalhau*.

Our party left Lisbon by the great suspension bridge across the Tagus, drove past the huge, Rio-like statue of Christ and headed southeast into the Alentejo, a vast plain with its own awesome character. Bare-trunked cork trees had been harvested of their bark. Piles of boulders punctuated the wheat fields like islands: on each one a single olive tree had sprouted.

We explored the region from our base at the Hotel Convento de São Paulo, a cloistered monastery in which the monks' cells have been coverted into charming rooms.

In the town of Évora, farmers in hard-rimmed stetsons and *pelicos*, the local furry-hide jackets, had gathered in in the main square, the Praca do Giraldo, to do business.

Inside the Sao Francisco church I found the Chapel of Bones, a macabre vault neatly patterned with the mortal remains of some 5,000 monks. "We these bones await your bones," read the inscription.

It was not welcoming, but it was yet more evidence that there is plenty of Portugal to discover beyond the fairways.

JEREMY SEAL

● *The author was a guest of The Magic of Portugal.*

HOW TO GET TO LISBON AND WHERE TO STAY

■ The Magic of Portugal (reservations 0181-741 1181, brochure 01233 211619) offers villa and hotel holidays, city breaks, stays in historic *pousadas* and self-drive holidays.

■ The author stayed in Lisbon at the Hotel Da Lapa, a five-star hotel built around an old palace in the city's diplomatic quarter. The Magic of Portugal offers a week's two-centre holiday, based on the hotels Da Lapa and Quinta do Lago in the Algarve, starting at £908 per person in July, including flights, transfers and four days' car hire. A week's holiday with three nights at a three-star hotel in Lisbon and four nights at the Hotel Convento de São Paulo, with flights and three days' car hire, starts at £539.

■ TAP Air Portugal (0171-828 0262) flies three times daily to Lisbon from London Heathrow. For much of May, subject to availability, midweek returns start at £97, rising to about £200 in June.

■ Lisbon's main sights are open every day except Monday. The Port Wine Institute is at Rua de Sao Pedro de Alcantara 45, and open daily 10am-10pm, except Sunday.

■ Recommended for memorable evening drinks is Pavilhao Chines Bar at Rue Dom Pedro V 89, Lisbon.

■ Portugal is generally warm from April to October, although the Alentejo, southeast of Lisbon, can become uncomfortably hot in July and August.

■ Guide books: *The Rough Guide*, £9.99. *Cadogan Guide*, £14.99.

■ For further travel information call The Portuguese Tourist Office in London on 0171-494 1441.

Feast day in the forest

Golf is undoubtedly the main attraction of the Algarve — but there are so many other activities on offer that non-golfers certainly won't get bored.

The Quinta do Lago hotel is renowned for its three golf courses (Quinta do Lago, Pinheiros Altos and San Lorenzo), as well as tennis, horse-riding, cycling, an excellent health club and bird-watching, while the neighbouring water sports centre provides scuba-diving, parascending, water-skiing, jet-skiing and fishing.

The Ria Formosa National Park, adjoining the Quinta do Lago estate, is a prime site for birdwatchers, but the acres of barren land are possibly best left to the real afficionados. Nonetheless, the information centre at the park is well worth a visit, with its displays of local flora and fauna and an excellent aquarium.

The local fishing villages should be visited, with Olhão particularly worthy of a mention for its spotless fish market. Lunch around the coast is both cheap (less than £5) and good if you keep to the fish, particularly the sardines. If you want a real treat, one of the best places for lunch is Gigi's.

A five-minute walk towards the sea, across a rickety bridge from the hotel, Gigi's serves outstanding seafood. It is expensive for the region, but, with wine, the bill is unlikely to exceed £20 a head.

For those wishing to see more of the Portuguese culture, a small organised trip is strongly advised. Our party of six was guided by Miltours, whose representative, Nuno Valagão, was a revelation. Not only was he popular with the locals everywhere we visited, he led us to Estoi, where the town square was more Rio than Ria Formosa.

We had stumbled — thanks to Nuno — upon the annual "festival of the pines", which marks the start of summer. The Portuguese, friendly though they are, prefer to keep these occasions to themselves, and we were the only tourists there. When pressed, Nuno revealed that this celebration takes place on the first Sunday in May each year. We were there on a Tuesday, and it was only half-jokingly that Nuno said: "The day varies to keep the tourists away."

The procession was led by those on horseback, with the riders wearing traditional black suits with white shirts, while their charges had beautifully braided manes and tails tied with ribbons and flowers. Horse-drawn carriages and tractors followed, buried in flowers, leaving the town centre amid loud music and singing. The participants embarked on a 12-kilometre journey to the pine forest at Ludo for a day of feasting, before returning after nightfall to light a large bonfire in front of the church.

ROB WRIGHT

● *The author was a guest of British Airways Holidays and Orient-Express Hotels.*

FACT FILE

■ As part of the British Airways Holidays golf programme, three and seven-night special programmes are offered to the Hotel Quinta do Lago. Prices start from £639 for three nights and £898 for seven, and include return flights, B&B, a car and one round of golf (18 holes) per night's stay at the following courses: Quinta do Lago, Pinheiros Altos, Vila Sol or Vilamoura 1,2,3. Inquiries and reservations: 01293 723131.

■ The five-star Hotel Quinta do Lago is set on a pine-covered hill overlooking the sea. A footbridge leads to miles of beach, with the Ria Formosa bird sanctuary also close at hand. The hotel is only a short drive from the area's golf course, and the charming historic villages of Faro, Almansil and Olhão. Cost per person sharing a double rooms starts from £80. The hotel offers a series of four and seven-night golf instruction programmes for beginners through to advanced players. Inquiries and reservations through Orient-Express Hotels: 0181-568 8366.

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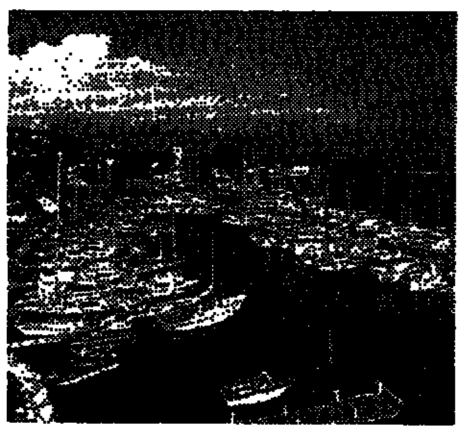
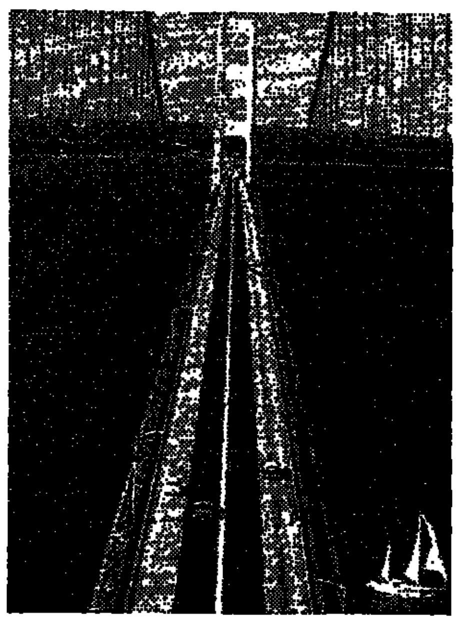


On a drive through Michigan the chances are you'll pass more boats than you will cars.



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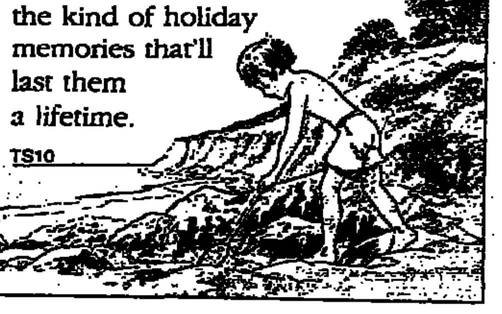

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… the benefits of the Algarve out of season; plus taking the rough with the smooth greens at Estoril

A country all to ourselves

The car bounced along the rough road. There was no house in sight, no signpost, no one to ask the way. "I'm telling you, this is wrong," my wife said in a tone that left no doubt that I, who was navigating, had better get us out of this mess. The sun was hot. The road wound nowhere.

Who said the Algarve was horribly overdeveloped? Just when you needed directions from a friendly tourist office, or an olde English pub, or a golf club crowded with Brits, all there was was a stony track. "Just keep going," I said. The gears crunched.

Then the road suddenly improved, joining a metalled one. We sped up and turned a corner. In front of us the sea sparkled and the sands of Praia da Amoreira, almost empty, stretched into the distance. A small restaurant, Paraiso do Mar (Sea Paradise), with white tables and sun umbrellas, had several tables free. I was saved.

The fried cuttlefish (1,000 escudos or £4.40), was superb; the prawns, grilled mackerel and sardines fresh and cheap; the wine only 600 escudos (£2.70). Under a powder-blue October sky with a temperature of about 80F, and an afternoon stretching ahead, the cold, leaden weather back home seemed much more than a two-hour flight away.

Early autumn is a good time to visit the Algarve. For some decades this southern state of Portugal has cashed in on its guaranteed sun, good beaches and, now, excellent golfing facilities. During the summer months holidaymakers are packed in like *sardinhas*, but in October it is quieter and the weather is still reliable.

"The good thing about the Algarve," said a holiday rep in an unguarded moment — probably after one too many almond liqueurs — "is that there's nothing to see, so you can completely relax." This unflattering summary contains some truth. But there are delightful places if you look.

One of them was our villa, not far from Carvoeiro, on the south coast, about midway between Faro, the airport, and the western tip. Quinta 'del Rey (King's Farm) is a modern copy of an old Portuguese farmhouse — spacious and tasteful with a swimming pool (unheated, so chilly in autumn), suitable mod cons, and basic food and drink ready for you in the fridge. There were five of us, including two small children. Some days the thought of staying there instead of exploring was too tempting to resist.

We were in typical southern Algarvian countryside — dry and scrubby, but with cork oak, almond, olive trees and cactus in abundance, and vines struggling through the red earth. At sunset the clunk of bells and distant bleating of sheep and goats drift through the quiet. One evening the children rode horses from the nearby riding school along sandy tracks around the neighbourhood.

The red earth lends itself well to the plates, jars, jugs and cups that fill the local potteries. But it is the *azulejos* (tiles) that are the most typical feature of Portugal, emblazoned on the front of several guidebooks. Charming antique ones are worth looking out for. In churches all over the Algarve, blue tiles cover the walls in exotic competition with brilliant gold carving.

The small church in Vila da Bispo, to the west, is one spectacular example, a riot of blue and gold with an elaborately painted ceiling and bright chandeliers. Even more gorgeous is the chapel of San Antonio in Lagos. Through a modest entrance you suddenly find yourself in a golden chamber that glows in the semi-darkness.

Lagos itself — with its leafy square, Praca Gill Eanes, and the bizarre statue of Dom Sebastian, the 16th-century king, as a child in a spaceman's outfit — was the most appealing of the larger towns in the western Algarve. The regional museum there is recommended.

A week was not nearly enough to explore even the western half of the Algarve, let alone to confirm the promising reports of towns like Tavira in the east or the barely explored, wild north east. But the west coast repays a number of trips: the Cape of Saint Vincent, the most southwesterly point of Europe, and nearby Sagres evoke the early days of Portuguese exploration.

The former is where in the 4th century the body of St Vincent, a Spanish priest, was brought in a boat guarded, it is said, by ravens. It became a Christian shrine where for centuries passing boats dipped their sails. The ravens remain and a lighthouse guards the dramatic coastline. Sagres is where Henry the Navigator, an early Renaissance Man, founded his school of navigation.

Further up the Atlantic coast, south of Praia da Amoreira, we worked up an appetite walking for miles along the beautiful, deserted beach at Bordeira, the scent of pine and herbs mingling with the salt.

Really good food was not easy to find. Piri-piri (chilli) chicken is worth trying, as are fried prawns with piri-piri and garlic. The best meal of the week was when we ventured east to Olhão. Opposite the large fish market, on Avenida 5 de Outubro, is Restaurante Kinkas where the *cataplana* (seafood stew with pork, a local speciality) was excellent.

The Algarve sometimes tantalises then disappoints the visitor. Beautifully fresh and well-cooked fish is insulted by having to share a plate with vegetables straight from a school canteen; or a lovely view along a bougainvillea-lined street to a church is obscured by a heap of old building materials.

But occasionally, unexpectedly, it all comes right. Such as drinking coffee under the plane trees in the pretty hill village of Alte, with the stream flowing by, the sun high, and the verses of the local poet painted on blue and white tile panels at neat intervals along the wall.

TIMOTHY RICE

● *The author was a guest of Meon Villas.*

FACT FILE

- **The author stayed at the five-star Quinta 'del Rey villa near Carvoeiro. One week's self-catering costs from £449 per person based on six sharing in spring and autumn. Price includes flights (Gatwick), maid or cleaning service and hire car with unlimited mileage. Additional weeks from £169 per person based on six sharing. Prices for four sharing start at £505 per person. Reservations: Meon Villas (01730 230370).**
- **Currency is escudos: 226 to the £.**
- **Guidebook: *Get to Know the Algarve* by Len Port (VIP, £9.95).**

MICHAEL PHILIP MANHEIM

Day on the tiles: *azulejos* are the most distinctive and ubiquitous feature of Portugal, used to decorate everything from walls to churches

Watch birdies on the coast

In AD 1147, Dom Afonso Henriques, the first King of Portugal, conquered Lisbon with the help of English crusaders.

The English are now returning in expanding numbers but wielding *six-irons* instead of swords. The nearby Estoril coastline, a half-hour train ride from Lisbon, where the indigenous rich and famous prefer to holiday, is now cottoning on to the jargon of birdies and eagles.

It is cheap, too. Green fees range from £25 to £40 on the Algarve. Around Lisbon, they average £25 — and fairway fanatics do not have to rise with the dawn or queue for eternity to secure a tee time.

Estoril Palacio, an exclusive members club linked with the five-star Hotel Palacio, offers a taxing trail that meanders through eucalyptus and fragrant mimosa.

Crossing and recrossing the motorway, which bisects the par-69 splendour, can prove irksome and even traumatic, especially if players take the wrong path and inadvertently end up pulling bag and trolley along the hard shoulder.

The mix of links and woodland holes of **Quinta da Marinha**, bordering the Atlantic at Cascais, test the patience of a saint while the par-72 at **Aroeira**, across the Tagus suspension bridge on the Costa Azul, cuts through dense pine and abundant flora. Many a professional was reduced to club-thumping frustration during the recent Portuguese Open held there.

Yet the **Penha Longa** estate at Linho, 33km from the capital, is the Lisbon jewel — a £100 million Japanese-backed "super resort" in the foothills of the Sintra mountains and former venue of the Portuguese Open. The 6,748-yard course, designed by the American Robert Trent Jones Jr in the grounds of a 14th-century monastery, is only four years old but already has a reputation as one of the most spectacular — and difficult — in Europe.

Its peaceful aura can be shattered by high-powered testing on the neighbouring Estoril grand prix circuit but usually remains quiet when Penha Longa stages its premier events. Formula One shows great respect for its sporting cousins.

RUSSELL KEMPSON

● *The author was a guest of Longshot Golf Holidays.*

ESTORIL FACT FILE

- Seven nights at Hotel Palacio, Estoril, inclusive of flight, car hire and weekday play on hotel course, costs from £459 per person per week. A golf "passport", for five courses in the area, costs £99. Trolley hire is £2 per day, buggy hire is between £15 and £20.
- Return flights to Lisbon: British Airways (0345 222111) from £99, World Offer; TAP (Air Portugal, 0171-828 0262) from £97, Supersaver.
- Reservations and inquiries: Longshot Golf Holidays, Meon House, College Street, Petersfield, Hants GU32 3JN (01730 268621).

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When all's white with the world

"When I shout 'bail out' I don't mean bale out. I mean bail the water out before we hit the next set of rapids," said the instructor, about to steer five novice whitewater rafters down the first ten rapids below Victoria Falls on the River Zambezi. "This season I've flipped three times, and I expect it will happen again soon. Anyone of a nervous disposition should leave."

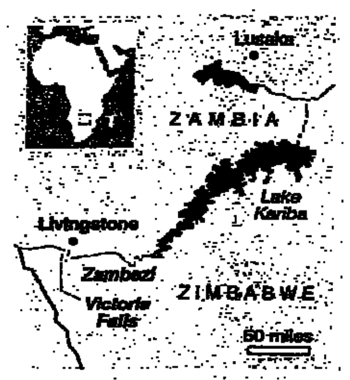
This announcement, coming as it did after we'd all paid (cash, no cheques) and signed a disclaimer for insurance purposes, was not reassuring. The company we were using, Sobek Expeditions based in California, specialises in whitewater rafting around the world, and is named after a Egyptian river-god who looks like a croc.

John continued: "It's vital that you all do exactly what I say, when I say it. Otherwise the boat will go over. If I say 'highside right', you've got to throw all your weight onto the right tube before the wave flips us on our back. If anyone goes overboard we've got a rope, so throw it to them. And if you find yourself in the water, cross your arms across your chest and try to shoot the rapids feet first."

Presumably this was in the hope of getting away with a couple of broken legs rather than being brained on a boulder. Subdued, we set off down the river.

Downstream from the Victoria Falls the Zambezi runs through a narrow gorge with precipitous cliffs falling sheer into the water. We looked from the top and saw the 16ft Avon inflatables and the ant-like figures of the porters. Then we started a slow descent.

Some of us clung nervously to the side and were put to shame by the retired couple from Belfast. "Why are you worrying about falling over just because you're near the edge?" asked the wife. "You don't just suddenly fall over for no reason in everyday life, do you?"



Not much reassured, we scrambled on down. The Victoria Falls never look small, even from above. From below they seem vast, and are deafening. But our attention was fixed on the rapids on the river. From a height these look like fast-flowing water; as one descends, it becomes clear that this is no mere river — it is a raging torrent. If a tree falls in it is thrown down the river and dashed into toothpicks on the first boulder.

But the descent had strengthened every resolve. Nothing could be worse than going back up. We climbed into a grey rubber dinghy, while John apologised that it was old, well patched and needed regular transfusions of air to keep afloat. His newer boat had burst the previous day. Hoping that the same was not going to happen to this one, we pushed off into a calm patch of water, with John putting his weight into rowing powerfully across the stream.

All too soon we were caught in the current and sucked inexorably through the first rapid. The boat plunged into a vortex of crashing waves as we threw our weight against the tubes lifted by the spray which filled the boat. Like a filled paddling pool our boat lurched towards the sheer rock wall on the far side of the rapids, and rocked as the crew unanimously flinched from the black basalt. "Bail!" shouted the guide, and no one felt any desire to bale out.

PICTURES

The rapids below the Victoria Falls are strong enough to reduce a fallen tree to toothpicks

Once the boat was clear of water, John decided we needed a crew drill. "Right side," he shouted, and we threw ourselves vigorously to the left. "Left side" — and we all went right. It took a little time for him to explain the difference between right and left, even to the English speakers. Then he started on the Japanese, explaining linguistic details such as "forwards" and "back".

This was just as well, because from there the rapids got bigger and better. The rubber dinghy was thrown around like a floating scrap through rapid after rapid, with frantic bailing on the flat pools between. During the rare periods of relaxation we were shown the eagles' nests, hippo dens and crocodiles, and were regaled with chilling stories of great rafting disasters. Looming ahead was a more immediate threat: rapid number nine.

Rapid number nine has never been rafted. We novices were just worried how to stop in time, and so it was a relief to find a pool of tranquillity after the adrenaline-rushing slide down number eight.

Once we'd stopped, a new problem presented itself. Although the river treated our boats as it would a dried leaf on its surface, off the water the Avon inflatable, strengthened with a steel frame, was heavy, and manhandling it down over the broken rock banks of the gushing white waters was far from easy. The six of us dragged it on to a slab of basalt, and struggled to lift it to shoulder height.

Then we staggered along like some drunken 12-legged insect over broken rocks and sandy patches. Eventually we reached the steep drop of the main waterfall, and unceremoniously dumped the boat over the side to let the river bounce it flat.

Afterwards, it is hard to identify the best rapids. Was it four, the one that has overturned more rafts than any other since the sport was started on the Zambezi 15 years ago? Or seven, that left us gasping for lunch, after it spun us in a sickening series of whirlpools between a succession of standing waves stacked proud across the flow of water? But the numbers weren't important. Depending on the river levels, new rapids appear to fill and threaten the raft, to be classified as three-and-a-half, seven-and-three-quarters and so on. Whichever was worst — or best — everyone was entranced and determined to repeat the experience.

There is no reason to stick to a one-day ride down the Zambezi. Seven days of rapids stretch down from Victoria Falls towards Kariba, and companies in bordering Zambia and Zimbabwe run tours for individuals and groups.

Whitewater rafting was started by the holiday operator Sobek, which prospected the river by air before trying it out in practice, and is currently based in Livingstone on the Zambian side of the Falls. Since then, other operators have launched themselves into the lucrative rafting trade on the Zimbabwe side, starting further downstream.

Purists may detect a certain hype factor in the introductory safety chat, and resent an early rendezvous immediately followed by a leisurely registration procedure. There are other time-killing techniques to stretch out ten rapids to fill a day tour. There was a time when the one-day tour took in the first 20 — an easy target.

Despite the padding, rafting the Zambezi is an unforgettable experience. Unlike the wilder waters of Canada and Chile, the Zambezi is warm, and so getting drenched is part of the fun. Although California can offer warm water, there is less of it and so the experience is less exuberant. As an introduction to this demanding and exciting sport the Zambezi is unequalled.

JACK BARKER

WHITEWATER RAFTING FACT FILE

- Whitewater rafting below Victoria Falls is seasonal because the water level changes. It is highest between August and December. Day tours can be arranged at Harare with Frontiers Adventures (00 263 4 732 911; fax 00 263 4 732 948) for $85 (about £57), or with Shearwater (00 263 4 757 831; fax 00 263 4 757 836) for $95 (about £64). Both companies also offer tours of up to five days. For Sobek in Zambia call 00 2 603 321 423; its parent company, Mountain Travel Sobek of California (00 1 800 227 2384) has nine-day expeditions for $1,750 (about £1,175).
- From the UK, Somak Holidays (0181-423 3000) can arrange whitewater rafting on the Zambezi in conjunction with some of its African tours. Whitewater rafting is also included in the Exodus 17-day Nepal Discoverer, 15-day Nepal Explorer and 15-day Inca Trail holidays. It is also an optional extra at Victoria Falls in the five-week Southern Africa Overland Expedition. Reservations, 0181-675 5550.
- Various airlines fly to Zimbabwe. The author flew from London to Harare with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines (0181-750 9000) via Schipol. Return flights from £751.
- Yellow fever and cholera inoculation certificates are required if entering from infected areas. Consult your GP before travelling. Malaria prophylaxis is recommended for the Zambezi valley.
- For stays of less than six months British passport holders do not need a visa for Zimbabwe.
- Worldwide, whitewater rafting has become one of the fastest growing sports. Other places include Queenstown, South Island, New Zealand. Queenstown is a good place to arrange day-trips or longer safaris. In Cairns, Queensland, Australia you can go rafting for a day or let a helicopter drop you off for a longer ride, with several nights under canvas. Quest Worldwide (0181-547 3322) offers a day's river rafting, through World Heritage rainforest, for £63 per person, departing daily from Cairns. Travelmood (0171-258 0280) offers a day tour for £59. Five and 11-day tours are also available.
- The Australian Tourist Commission provides a factsheet and a faxback service. Using a fax machine, dial 0891-404 404 and key in the pin number 307.
- If there is enough rain, whitewater rafting is also available in Wales between mid-October and March at £30 per person per day. Contact Activity Wales (01437 766 888).

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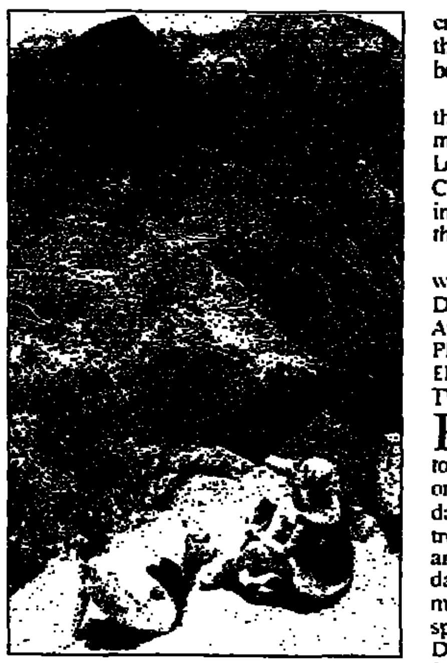
The Inca trail to Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas, can be tough at times because of the trail conditions and the altitude, up to 4,000m, but that is part of the enjoyment.

The trail, now painstakingly restored, lasts for four days and because the area is so remote there is no alternative but to camp for three days in the mountains.

Trekkers are accompanied by a guide, porters, cook and helpers and the two-person tents are put up and dismantled by them, so it is camping in style.

While the trek is high in places and by no means a beginner's stroll, it is quite short and within the capacity of anyone who is fit and used to walking.

You return to Cuzco on the equally breathtaking train ride along the Urubamba river, whose rapids provide you with a day's adrenalin-rich excitement as you whitewater raft along the Sacred Valley.


On the trail of the lost city of the Incas

DEPARTURES: May 14, June 4 and 18, July 2 and 16, Aug 6 and 20, Sept 3, Oct 15 and 29. Ask for dossier TPT.
PRICE: £1,350-£1,395 plus £52 insurance.

Another classic walk on top of the world is the Mont Blanc Trek, one of the finest walks in Europe.

The circuit is a series of paths linking the seven valleys that surround the highest mountain in western Europe. Your route will take you across three borders from France into Switzerland, then into Italy and back to France. For much of its length it lies on high paths with magnificent views into the valley, sometimes crossing huge glaciers, often meandering through alpine meadows and picture-book villages.

It is a grade B trek with 10 days of the 15-day trip spent walking at a maximum altitude of 2,500m. You fly from London to Geneva and then drive to Chamonix. Accommodation is camping in good campsites and occasionally in the wild.

This holiday is always popular so you will need to book quickly.
DEPARTURES: June 24, July 8 and 22, Aug 12 and 26, Sept 9.
PRICE: £580-£595, plus meals package £115 and insurance £22. Ask for dossier TWB.

For the seriously adventurous, there is a spectacular top-of-the-world walk to the base camp of K2, the world's second highest peak and one of the most daring to climb. A classic among trekking routes, it is exceptionally wild and remote. The holiday lasts for 23 days with 14 days trekking to a maximum altitude of 4,724m. Six nights are spent in hotels and 15 camping.
DEPARTURE: June 29, July 27, Aug 17.
PRICE: £1,950, plus £58 insurance. Ask for dossier THC.

*Send for a grading guide to help you decide which type of trek you are physically capable of from: Exodus Travels, 9 Weir Road, London SW12 0LT.

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Weekend breaks in Britain: Cardiff enjoys a renaissance; plus the chocolate and castles of the North

Fruits of Victorian dreams

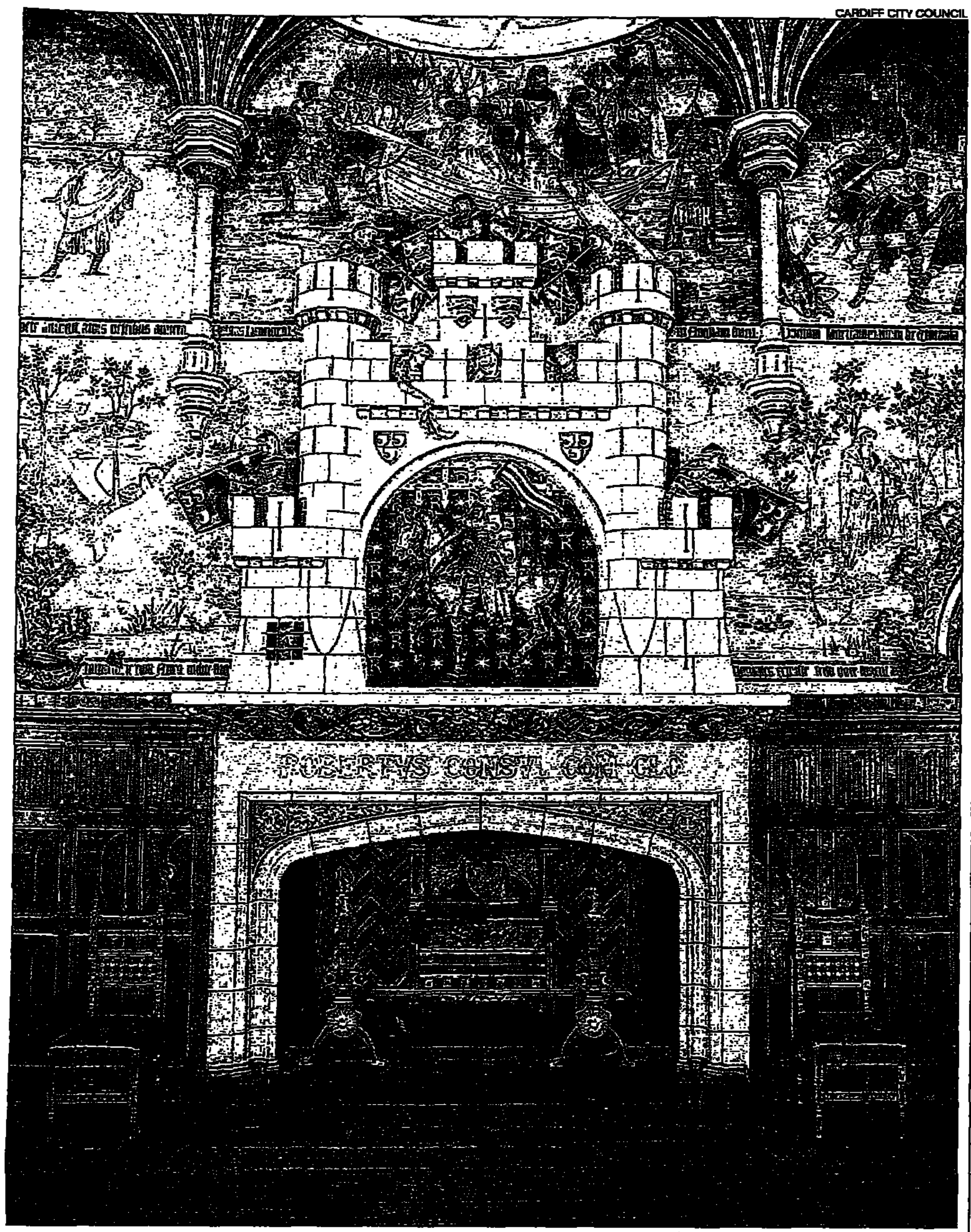
If a scholarly aristocrat and an eccentric architect were to hatch a scheme to create Cardiff Castle today, they would undoubtedly be refused planning permission for their grandiose project.

We are fortunate then that such a well-matched pair did come together before the days of planning inquiries and bureaucratic busybodies. The aristocratic patron was the third Marquess of Bute and his collaborator was the brilliant architect, William Burges. Their joint dream in 1865 was to transform Cardiff's centuries-old castle into a medieval marvel.

Bute's father had virtually created modern Cardiff by establishing its dockland, and the young heir to the family fortune was willing to put his money where Burges's muse was. What he bequeathed to succeeding generations might be described as a cross between Disneyland and the Alhambra.

From the bustling city streets, the castle, with its neatly crenelated walls and symmetrical arrow slits, looks like a child's model fort. It stands on the 2,000-year-old site of Roman and Norman fortifications, but its present inspiration comes from the Middle Ages.

Inside the restored quarters, no surface remains unadorned. No wall lacks its mural and no ceiling is left ungilded. Even the nursery has a frieze depicting characters from the *Arabian Nights*, Hans Andersen and the brothers Grimm.



CARDIFF CITY COUNCIL

Inside Cardiff Castle no surface remains unadorned, even down to the chimney piece in the banqueting hall

Like the castle, Cardiff itself comes as a pleasing surprise to the unsuspecting visitor. Considering the industrial heritage of surrounding valleys, it is remarkable that not a colliery winding gear or steelworks chimney interrupts the skyline.

Today's city remains a testament to Victorian enterprise. In 1800 the population of this sleepy market town was 1,800. By 1850 it had reached 30,000; today it is nearing 300,000. The motivators of this population boom were iron and coal.

A canal linking the iron foundries of Merthyr to Cardiff was opened in 1794 and a railway followed 50 years later. By 1913 Cardiff was the world's biggest coal port. Yet it has always been possible to stand in the centre of the city, oblivious to the existence of docklands only a mile away. The London-Fishguard railway line traditionally served as a physical and social barrier between the bourgeoisie and Butetown. It was a border which the majority of citizens rarely, if ever, crossed.

Uniting the two halves of the divided city is a prime aim of the £2.4 billion Cardiff Bay project, which involves the building of a barrage and the creation of an attractive waterfront. The scheme is going ahead in the face of objections by ecologists who point out that the existing mudflats provide winter feeding grounds for numerous wading birds. Despite the recent setback when the opera house project failed to attract Millennium money, visitors are already tentatively sampling its seaside delights.

Newcomers such as Techniquest, an educational science centre, and Harry Ramsden's fish restaurant have prudently adapted Victorian constructions. Techniquest is an exciting place for children and adults, packed with hands-on exhibits.

In Cathays Park, Cardiff can boast the finest civic centre in Britain. Begun at the turn of the century, it remains a testimony to Victorian civic pride. Here, on 60 acres of land bought from the third Marquess, is housed an icing-sugar confection of buildings, including city and county halls, law courts, museum and university. Portland stone facings and a neo-classical approach ensure unity.

Another Victorian legacy is the city's network of arcades. These glass-vaulted treasure caves are the forerunners of modern shopping precincts. Some, like Castle Arcade, run to three storeys and have walkways linked by bridges.

In Butetown the formidable Coal Exchange building is said to have been the scene of the world's first million-pound deal. It was later destined to be the site of a Welsh parliament until most of the population said: "Thank you, but no thank you." Ebenezer Chapel, which dates from the middle of the last century, was built from stones brought back as ballast in ships returning from every corner of the world.

Though still a cosmopolitan capital, Cardiff is arguably more Welsh today than at any time in living memory. A middle-class revival of interest in the language is fuelled by patriotism and opportunism.

A bonus on a recent visit to hear Bryn Terfel, the world-famous baritone, sing at St David's Hall was to return to the Park Hotel after midnight to find an impromptu *cymanfa ganu* (singing festival) at full throttle in the lounge bar. The choristers, complete with conductor and pianist, turned out to be members of the self-styled Terfeliad — a band of largely middle-aged fans who travel the world to support their local hero.

ALAN ROAD

- *The author was a guest of the Wales Tourist Board (01222 499909).*
- *Where to stay: Marriott Hotel, Mill Lane (01222 399944). B&B £64 single, £78 double; Town House (B&B), 70 Cathedral Road (01222 239399). £39.50 single, £49.50 double.*
- *Where to eat: Quayles, 6-8 Romilly Crescent (01222 341264); Harry Ramsden's, Stuart Street (01222 463334)*
- *Attractions: Cardiff Castle, Castle Street (01222 822083); Techniquest, Stuart Street (01222 475475); National Museum and Gallery, Cathays Park (01222 397951).*

Sweet delights of a Yorkshire tour

Fortunately the ninth Viscount Fairfax of Emley was 150 years dead by the time his bedchamber in York was converted into a public lavatory and his drawing room and salon into a dance hall.

But, in other ways, he would be happier now. The York Civic Trust bought 18th-century Fairfax House from the city council in 1982. For more than two years the architect Francis Johnson restored the building to its former splendour.

If you visit Fairfax House these days you're meant to feel that His Lordship is still around. The fact that he doesn't materialise turns out to be no great disappointment. The wonderful collection of Georgian furniture and clocks, the beautifully ornate ceilings, ironwork on the great staircase and carved woodwork around the doors are engrossing.

Fairfax House, built by the Viscount in 1762 for his unmarried daughter Anne, was the Sunday attraction of a Heritage Weekend in Yorkshire, one of a number of such breaks offered throughout the country by Hilton National Hotels and Past Times. Ours, Northern Delights, meant two nights at the Hilton National Leeds Garforth and visits to Harrogate, Ripley Castle and Fairfax House.

Friday night, though, was chocolate night, with a talk from Chantal Coady, a founder in 1991 of the 5,000-member Chocolate Society. This body dedicates itself to increasing awareness of fine-quality chocolate. The talk and subsequent tasting, I suspect, was the main attraction for many of the 16 weekend breakers. The French Valrhona chocolate was handed around in small packets. "Treat it like a fine wine," urged Ms Coady. It was heaven.

Unfortunately Harrogate the next day didn't leave such a good taste, thanks to the sulphur water I tried, reputedly the strongest in Europe. This, along with other medicinal waters, brought countless people to this spa town from the 18th century to the early part of the 20th. In 1912 there were 87 springs.

Our destination was the 1842 Royal Pump Room. In the old days people would visit either for a drink — in 1926 the place served 1,500 glasses of the water in one morning — or for a bath treatment for rheumatism, gout, digestive ailments or skin diseases. The water is drawn from the well inside the building, but there's a tap outside if you can't wait until opening time.

However, for a proper drink, give me Bettys Café Tearooms any day, where the lump sugar is the golden colour of Cotswold stone — although you can expect to pay £7 to £10 for two coffees and two cakes.

The business was established in 1919 by Frederick Belmont, a young Swiss confectioner, and is famed in these parts. Bettys is in York, Northallerton and Ilkley too. As for Betty, the secret of her identity died with Mr Belmont in 1952.

On the way to Ripley John Midgley, our coach driver, pointed out sights of interest: St Peter's School in York where they don't celebrate Guy Fawkes night because the Guy in question went to school there; a viaduct built over the River Wharf at Tadcaster for a railway line that never came; and an effluent treatment plant in the same town which serves three breweries.

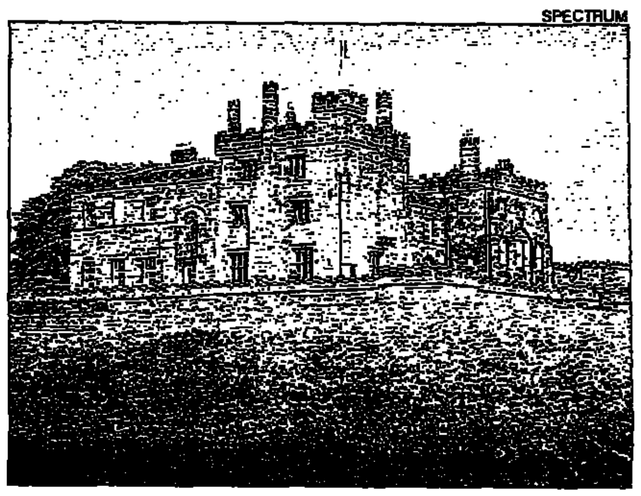
Saturday lunch was at Cromwell's in Ripley. The restaurant is owned by Ripley Castle and the Ingilby family, resident on the site for 650 years. There's a fine plaster ceiling in the oak-panelled tower room put up in 1603 to commemorate the stay of James VI of Scotland on his way south to become James I of England. In the knight's chamber there is a "wagon roof", so called because the wooden structure resembles a horse-drawn wagon.

One of the highlights of this weekend was the private guided tours. At Ripley Castle we were put in the hands of Fran Ffoulkes-Jones, whose animated and humorous walkabout was a delight.

You can get married here, too. The castle has a licence from Harrogate Borough Council to hold civil weddings, an irony that would not be lost on Sir William Ingilby (1620-82), who was so unattractive he had to commission someone to find him a wife.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

- *The author was a guest of Hilton National. For a brochure contact: Special Events, Hilton National, Millbuck House, Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts WD1 1DN (01923 246464). This features 19 packages, including Conflicts of the English Civil War (May 31-Jun 2), Josiah Wedgwood (July 19-21), and William Morris 1834-96 (June 28-30, Aug 2-4). Prices from £147 per person.*



SPECTRUM

The Northern Delights weekend takes in Ripley Castle

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 25

DRENGAGE

(b) An ancient form of tenure, connected with hunting services. Such service existed on the manors of the Bishop of Durham before the Conquest. The word is from the Danish *dreng* a boy or servant. "Thus there are persons holding in drengage, who have had to feed a horse and a dog and to go in the great hunt (*magna caza*) with two harriers and 15 cordons."

KNURR AND SPELL

(a) An old English game resembling trap ball and played with a *knurr* or wooden ball which is released from a little brass cup at the end of a tongue of steel called a *spell* or *spill*. After the player has touched the spring the ball flies into the air and is struck with the bat.

PYLADES

(c) Pylades was the friend of Orestes in Homeric legend. Their names have become proverbial for friendship, like Damon and Pythias, and David and Jonathan. Orestes was the son, and Pylades the nephew, of Agamemnon. After Agamemnon was chopped in his bath, Orestes was evacuated to Pylades' father (Strophius), and the two became fast friends. Pylades assisted Orestes in obtaining vengeance on Aegisthus and Clytemnestra, and afterwards married Electra, his chum's sister.

BAKHA

(c) The sacred bull of Hermonthis in Egypt, an incarnation of Menthu, a personification of the heat of the sun. The versatile bull changed colour every hour of the day.

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Our visit will be all the more memorable due to our good fortune in obtaining permission to visit the Paro Festival in the truly Buddhist Kingdom of Bhutan. Here in the splendour of their ceremonies and traditional costumes we shall have a rare opportunity to see and begin to understand the meaning of Tibetan religion and art and gain further insight into their way of life.

For centuries, Tibet has lured Buddhist pilgrims and foreigners alike despite its geographical isolation and unmapped lands. Our access by air from Kathmandu will be quick and comfortable. Yet immediately upon arrival in the heart of Tibet at Lhasa we will have stepped back in time to a land that until recently had seen little change.

Similarly Bhutan, 'The Land of the Dragon' is hesitantly opening its doors and allowing a strictly limited number of travellers across its borders. Today's visitor is shown a fascinating society which is untouched by the modern world. Isolated, like Tibet, by its towering peaks of the Himalayas, its culture and traditions have remained constant for hundreds of years. And in Kathmandu, old and new rest side by side, the array of Hindu pagodas and Buddist Chaityas a sculptors dream.

It will be an outstanding journey of appreciation of these mountain peoples, their art and the stunning scenery they inhabit. A monumental trip undertaken with a degree of comfort, although some accommodation whilst charming, will be of a simple style.

THE ITINERARY
DAY 1 Fly London (Gatwick)-Kathmandu
DAY 2 Kathmandu Arrive mid-afternoon and stay 3 nights.
DAY 3 Kathmandu Visit the richly carved Pagoda Temples of Durbar Square, the museum with its superb 12th-14th century Nepalese bronzes and the Monastery of the Living Goddess. Also visit the great Buddhist stupa of Swayambhunath.
DAY 4 Kathmandu Drive to Patan and see Durbar Square and the Palace Complex. In the afternoon visit the great Temple of Pashupatinath, the holiest of Nepal's shrines.
DAY 5 Kathmandu-Paro Fly to Paro and stay overnight. On a clear day the flight affords breathtaking views of the great Himalayan peaks.
DAY 6 Thimpu Drive to Bhutan's capital since 1955. Here in the broad fertile valley of the Wang Chu River, visit the National Library which houses a splendid collection of ancient manuscripts and the Traditional Medicine Institute, where centuries old healing arts are still practised. Time permitting visit the Handicrafts' Emporium or witness a mask and folk dance performance by the Royal Academy of Performing Arts.
DAY 7 Thimpu Visit the Tashico Dzong, Bhutan's administrative and religious centre on the banks of the river and the historic Simtokha Dzong which houses the Rigney School for Monastic Studies.
DAY 8 Tongsa Drive through the thickly forested mountain roads to Tongsa to see the impressive Tongsa Dzong, the ancestral home of Bhutan's royal family. Stay overnight.
DAY 9 Thimpu Return to Thimpu at a leisurely pace, driving through magical countryside. Stay overnight.
DAYS 10 & 11 Paro A short drive takes us to Paro to attend various festival celebrations and visit the Rimpung (Paro) Zone, a treasure house of art and writings. There are splendid views of the whole valley. Permission will also be sought to visit the Taksang Monastery known as 'Tigers Nest' precariously situated on the edge of a sheer cliff.
DAY 12 Paro-Kathmandu Fly to Kathmandu. Stay 2 nights.
DAY 13 Kathmandu Drive to Bhadgaon and see the Golden Gate, the Five-storeyed Nyatapola Temple and the Palace of Fifty Five Windows.
DAY 14 Kathmandu-Lhasa Fly to Lhasa and stay 3 nights.
DAYS 15 & 16 Lhasa Visits will be made to the Great Potala Palace, founded in the 7th century and added to and restored through the ages. See the decorated halls with their fine wall paintings, the magnificent funerary pagodas, ritual vessels and porcelain. Also see the 7th century Jo Khang Monastery, an important Pilgrimage Centre and the Summer palace.
DAY 17 Xigaze Drive across the vast Yangbainon Plateau and cross the Brahmapautra River to Xigaze. Stay 2 nights.
DAY 18 Xigaze Visit the Tashilumpo Monastery, one of the six great centres of Lamaism. See the Panchem Lama's throne in the Great Hall, the 15th century wall paintings and some fine statues. Later see the market and the Shaly Monastery founded in 1040.
DAY 19 Lhasa Drive back to Lhasa for a 2 night stay.
DAY 20 Lhasa A leisurely day visiting a market and the Drepung hillside Monastery built in the early 1400's, once the largest and richest monastery in the world.
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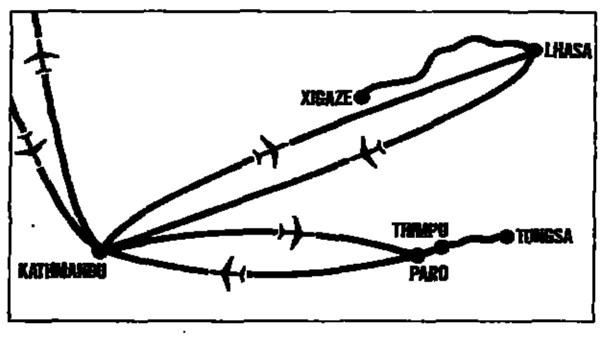

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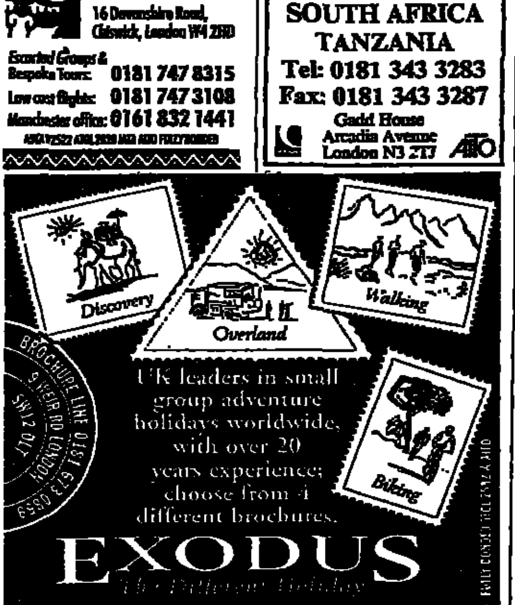
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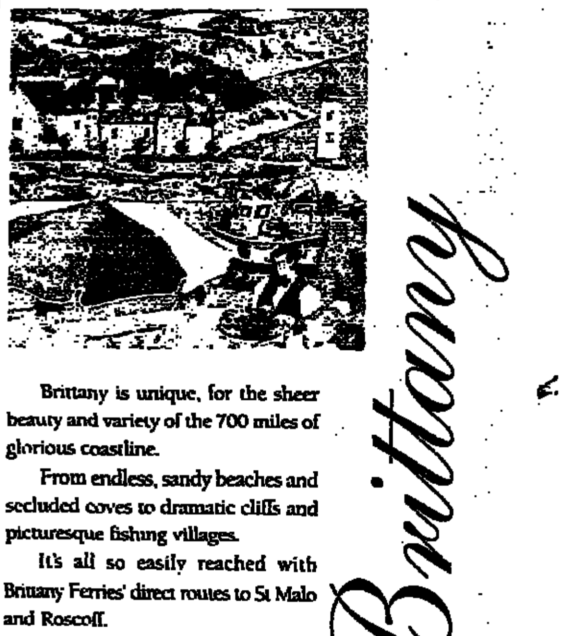

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France: the ferries are gearing up for Round 2 of the fight against the Chunnel

Who'll rule Channel waves?

The theory was that the Channel Tunnel would swamp ferry competition when it started its car-carrying Le Shuttle service 16 months ago. The four rivals — P&O European Ferries, Stena, Sally Ferries and Hoverspeed — would be reduced to a handful of crossings to cater for tunnel-phobia victims and die-hard traditionalists.

In fact, a price war broke out among the ferry companies. Some return fares for a car and passengers fell by two-thirds to under £100. The average fare dropped by 20 per cent.

This year a fifth competitor has joined the fray. Sea France was conceived after a split with Stena, partners for 30 years, but unable to agree plans in the post-tunnel market. Rather than bow out of a crowded market, each has increased capacity and become rivals at Dover.

So much for the theory. This summer there will be 81 sailings a day from Dover (compared with 66 last year) — with 40 more departures by Le Shuttle at Folkestone and 18 with Sally from Ramsgate.

On average, there will be one departure every ten minutes 24 hours a day as the six rivals, together with Brittany Ferries in the west, fight for a share of the 27 million passengers.

Sea France, which has spent £5 million renovating three ships, expects to lose money this year. But it has set itself an ambitious target of 2.7 million passengers by 1997 and is lauding its French ownership to distinguish itself from the pack. An on-board bakery produces 1,200 baguettes, croissants and pain-au-chocolat daily. A consultant French chef will help produce different dishes; present offerings include confit de canard and lamb kebabs, alongside traditional British fare.

"We want to get away from the burger mentality that has dominated the Channel," says Robin Wilkins, the managing director. "If we had been just another ferry company we wouldn't last six months."

It is a moot point whether the British, who account for 70 per cent of the cross-Channel market, will consider cuisine when choosing between one steel hull and another.

Other initiatives include Hoverspeed offering free newspapers and a windscreen wash this summer, Stena introducing a fast ferry at Dover and Sally planning one from Ramsgate.

But fares and terminal and on-board shopping are more motivating factors, along with ferry crossing times and driving distance to the final destination.

Dover and Folkestone take 80 per cent of all cross-Channel business, and the effect of a price and duty-free war in 1995 attracted large numbers to forsake more convenient crossings and drive to Kent.

Brittany Ferries, operating from ports in Hampshire, Dorset and Devon, was worst hit, losing £10 million. It has hit back in 1996, matching prices to Cherbourg and Caen with those from Dover.

P&O copied the tactic on routes from Portsmouth to Le Havre and Cherbourg. The exercise has had a marked effect, making peak prices cheaper — but hugely inflating others outside school holidays. Families travelling to Normandy and Brittany on Saturday afternoons during the school holidays make the biggest savings, with prices falling from £359 last year to £225.

Worst off are couples taking morning or overnight departures in the summer outside the six-week school break, with fares rising by as much as 50 per cent. The fare on Britanny Ferries from Poole to Cherbourg in June rises from £172 to £257 for a couple and a car.

Another effect of the tunnel is bound to have more consequences for ferries: over-capacity. This clearly cannot continue and there is unlikely to be the same choice in 1997.

While the number of people crossing the Channel grew by 7 per cent last year, only two ferry companies made a profit. And the problems are growing.

The trend towards fast ferries demands more investment, and conventional ferries will have to be adapted to meet new safety requirements. The day-trip business, handy for filling empty ships in winter, was down 30 per cent this year. French companies are suffering the same fall in summer holiday bookings, mainly because of the strength of the franc.

With duty-free shopping due to be scrapped in 1999 the ferries face a further loss of income. P&O, which saw profits tumble by a quarter last year, gets 35 per cent of its revenue from duty-frees. In the meantime, it is losing duty-free business to le Shuttle, which has cut 66 per cent off high-street prices, extended its shopping areas at Folkestone and Calais, and is now selling £500,000 worth of goods each week.

Is the answer another price war? Don't be surprised if it is. While P&O is holding its nerve, the other main players, Stena and le Shuttle, are taking pot shots in a skirmish that could precede renewed battle.

Le Shuttle has extended its advance booking period to the end of April, knocking 20 per cent off summer prices. Stena, meanwhile, has cut prices by up to 40 per cent for travel this month.

The ferries are banking on long-term growth in the market and a levelling off of demand for le Shuttle to cement their future.

P&O and Stena can also be expected to renew talks on co-operation, given government clearance. But there is more to come in the short term.

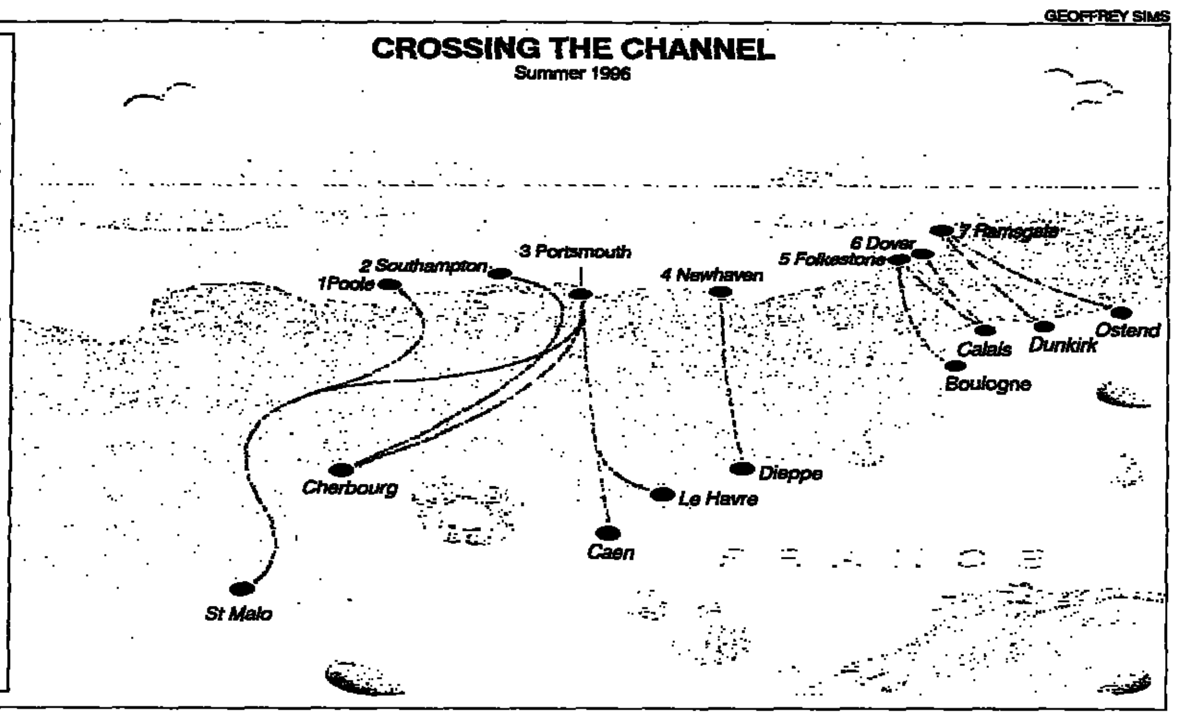
It was Brittany Ferries that cracked first last spring, reducing prices on all summer crossings to £100 and forcing rivals to follow. The same may be expected this year.

STEVE KEENAN

GEOFFREY SIMS

CROSSING THE CHANNEL
Summer 1996

1 POOLE		
To Cherbourg: Truckline/Brittany Ferries		4hr 15min
To St Malo: Brittany Ferries		8hr
2 SOUTHAMPTON		
To Cherbourg: Stena		5hr
3 PORTSMOUTH		
To Caen: Brittany Ferries		5hr 45min
To Cherbourg: P&O European Ferries		4hr 45min
To Le Havre: P&O European Ferries		5hr 45min
To St Malo: Brittany Ferries		9hr
4 NEWHAVEN		
To Dieppe: Stena	Ship	4hr
	Sea Lynx	2hr
5 FOLKESTONE		
To Boulogne: Hoverspeed		55min
To Calais: Le Shuttle		35min
6 DOVER		
To Calais: Hoverspeed		35min
P&O European Ferries		1hr 15min
Stena	Ship	1hr 30min
	Sea Lynx	45min
Sea France		1hr 30min
7 RAMSGATE		
To Ostend: Ostende Line	Ship	4hr
	Jetfoil	1hr 35min
To Dunkirk: Sally Ferries		2hr 30min



FARE DEALS

THERE is little difference in the prices quoted by ferry companies in their 1996 brochures.

The costliest crossings are the Friday or Saturday daytime departures during the school summer holidays, when P&O and Brittany Ferries charge £339 return for a car and occupants on routes to Calais, Cherbourg, Le Havre or Caen. Stena Line, too, has a common pricing policy on its routes to Calais, Dieppe and Cherbourg of £326 return, with £10 supplements on the fast catamarans. Other peak season prices are: Sally Ferries, £310 (Dunkirk); Sea France, £320 (Calais); Hoverspeed, £327 (Calais, £271 Boulogne); Le Shuttle £328.

Five-day returns are generally half-price. But several offers on day trips, short breaks and five-day tickets are offered, usually for travel by the end of June. All companies offer hefty discounts through selected outlets. These include Eurodrive (0181-324 4040) and Driveline Europe (01707 660011). Ferry Plus (0181-680 4400) is an outlet for Stena.

S.K.

● *Details of ferry bargains are published in* The Times *Travel News pages every Thursday.*

● *P&O (0990 980980). Stena (0990 707070). Sally (0990 595522). Hoverspeed (01304 240241). Sea France (01304 204204). Brittany (0990 360360). Le Shuttle (0990 353535).*

Rural walks around Slovenija

TRAVEL TIPS

SLOVENIAN FARMHOUSES

FARMHOUSES in the wine-growing regions of Stajerska in the newly independent republic of Slovenija, well located for walking and climbing, can be rented from specialist company Slovenija Pursuits (01763 852646).

A week's stay costs between £325 and £333 including flights and B&B.

CULTURAL KRAKOW

KRAKOW looks like joining Prague and Budapest as a top-selling Central European city destination. It was, until the 16th century, the Polish capital, and its medieval, baroque and Renaissance treasures, unlike those of Warsaw, are largely untouched.

City specialists Cresta (0161-927 7000) offers two nights there for £261 B&B; a two-centre break combining Krakow with Warsaw with two nights in each city, and a two-and-a-half-hour train journey between them costs £355.

An army officer in Warsaw

SWANNING FAR

SWAN Hellenic's new ship, *Minerva*, departs from Genoa on her maiden voyage on April 19 on a 15-day cruise of Italian and Greek sites. The 12,000-tonne vessel, formerly a military ship built in Odessa and refitted in Genoa, replaces the much-loved *Orpheus*, the refitted former Irish ferry that had explored every corner of the Mediterranean on its classical cruises accompanied by guest lecturers.

Minerva arrives in the port of London on June 7 for her official naming ceremony before leaving on her first cruise around the British Isles (11 days from £1,840).

Swan Hellenic (0171-800 2200) has also introduced winter cruises to the Far East, the Gulf and Indian Ocean, but has retained its non-tipping policy.

DISCOUNT PEKING

FROM June 2 to July 18, Air China offers £390 non-stop return flights between Heathrow and Peking, with discounts on regional connecting flights from Leeds, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and in China to Xian and Shanghai. Regent Holidays (0117 921 1711).

FRANC CHALLENGE

THE Louvre now opens free on the first Sunday of each month: the normal Sunday rate is Fr26; weekdays Fr45; after 3pm Fr26.

Also for visitors, a free map from the French Tourist Office in London (0891 244 123 — 49p per minute between 8am and 6pm, 39p after 6pm) shows off-motorway petrol stations within a mile or so of exits, where fill-ups can be £3 cheaper than motorway petrol stations.

POSH PADS

MANY villas in the Caribbean work out costing less than those in St Tropez, even allowing for the air fares, claims Caribbean Chapters (0171-722 0722), whose new programme of 140 elegant properties includes some with staff, floodlit tennis courts, billiard rooms and even air-conditioned racquet-ball courts.

The four-bedroom Baie Rouge in St Martin costs £3,960 per week for eight holidaymakers in the summer; £6,480 in winter.

EGYPT WARNING

TOURISTS heading for Egypt are being told that they can change their plans if they have fears following Thursday's gun attack in Cairo which left 18 Greek holidaymakers dead. Thomson is offering full refunds for clients booked to travel in the next fortnight who decide to cancel. Abercrombie & Kent is offering to make alternative holiday plans for any clients reluctant to visit Egypt. The Foreign Office is revising its advice but will stop short of warning off British tourists altogether.

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The Russians' long love affair with Paris is highlighted by a prize-winning book, an exhibition and a church

Emigré basks in literary sun

AS LEAVES and lemon sorbets reappear in the Jardin de Luxembourg, a Parisian's thoughts turn to literature — more specifically, Russian literature. *The* book to be seen reading on spring afternoons in the park is Andreï Makine's *Le Testament Français*.

The author and his best-selling book are equally curious. During the past winter of discontent, Makine won the Prix Goncourt and the Prix Médicis — the equivalent of a double Booker. But what really threw the literati was that Makine, a Russian immigrant, had written his novel in perfect French. This seemed so unlikely after only seven years in Paris that he was forced to pretend to the publisher Mercure that he had a translator.

French intellectuals were torn between being flattered that an author should abandon his native tongue for theirs and criticising his style and grammar. In the end, the French state welcomed the literary exile: Makine had been trying to win French citizenship for years.

The novel, soon to be published by Sceptre in Britain as *The French Testament*, is the story of a Russian boy who has fantastic daydreams of the France he has never seen but has heard about from his French grandmother, now trapped forever in the greyness of Russia.

Aside from his lyrical writing, Makine conforms to the French ideal of a starving artist. He refuses to move from his sparse garret in Montmartre and, at 38, dresses like a student in scuffed corduroy jackets and glasses.

Of course, Makine is merely Russia's latest export to France in a long line. "For Russians, Paris is the cultural centre of the world," he says. Turgenev came to Paris and swelled around with Dumas, Zola and Flaubert, and Tolstoy and Dostoevsky were regular visitors.

Such cultural and social exchanges are celebrated in a Franco-Russian exhibition, which opened this month at the Musée Carnavalet in the Marais. The exhibition covers only the 19th century but the material is vast, from paintings to diaries, clothes and "Imperial" soaps. There is a photograph of Tsar Nicholas coming out of the Louvre, and drawings of the prototype for the roller coaster, *les montagnes Russes*, which were all the rage in the city's pleasure gardens. As Victor de Balabine, a Russian diplomat, notes in his Paris diary in the 1840s: "We are quite fashionable here, and the Russians today, the French say, are the English of 1830."

There were so many Russians in Paris by 1861 that they built their own cathedral-church, St Alexandre Nevsky. Its five golden Byzantine domes are worth a visit, and the splendid A La Ville de Petrograd food shop is next door to the church, offering caviar, borscht and blinis.

KATE MUIR

● *"Les Russes à Paris au XIXe Siècle" is at the Musée Carnavalet, 29 Rue de Sévigné, 3rd arrondissement, until June 30.*

● *Church St Alexandre Nevsky, 12 Rue Daru, 8th. A La Ville de Petrograd.*

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ATTRACTIVE prof lady, 38, Pub school educated, intelligent no ties, stable, positive, GSOH, enjoys travel, politics (con), countryside, evenings in & out, WLTM similar man 35-50 to share life & future. Box 5312

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FEISTY blue eyed brunette (31), GSOH, sporty, fun to be with. Seeks solvent urban/man of the land (26-40) to humour me rotten & enjoy fun times together London/Home Counties. Reply with photo to Box 5212

FEMALE 38, staff nurse, black, 5'9", biological clock ticking, seeks a professional caring man. Any nationality in similar situation for long term relationship. London based. Photo please to Box No 5201

FEMME FATALE attractive & slim requires handsome, tall male with GSOH to spoil her. Only gentlemen (35+) need apply. Northwest. Photo please to Box No 5009

LADY Bucks/Beds fair 50/5'8" WLTM man to enhance life and have fun! Box No 5011

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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FIFTY-something slim, 5'6" & quite nice looking. I WLTM you if you are 56-65, tall & warm & loving by nature. I live in the Bath area, like cooking, gardening, friends & would be happy to share your interests too. Photo to Box No 5190

GORGEOUS female, independent, professional seeks equivalent male, 45-55 yrs with warmth, wit and integrity. Chester/Wrexham. Please Reply to Box No 5123

GRAND PRIX tickets to the first tall dark & handsome gentleman (under 42). Catch? This 5'2, late 30's petite, loving, imaginative, generous, capable girl comes with them. Kent based. Photo plse. Box 5187

HANDSOME, tall accomplished lover, a professional man (30-45) with personality, brains & wit for sensuous Libran career girl. Kent/ London. Please reply with photo to Box No 5198

HAS it all - but the partner. If you are 30-45, unpretentious, handsome, sincere, loving & giving, enjoy keeping fit, countryside, animals & definitely children, then this attractive, slim, traditional, homeloving, blonde (36) would like to hear from you with photo & letter. London/ Home Counties. Box 5147

HUMOROUS, spontaneous, petite brunette (39), Kent based, footloose looking to spend serious time with caring, romantic, sensuous professional man (36-45). Loves sports, travel etc. Photo please to Box No 5153

INTENSELY individual introductions in London with Close Encounters - call Sue today 0171 289 3777.

LET'S face the truth, however "together" we are, without a loving arm, empathy and a sweet face on the pillow, life is unfulfilled. I need a man supplying lots of kindness, intelligence, humour, and a desire to love and be loved in return. I'm attractive, no disappointment there! Late 40's, 5'6", single, no children, emotionally stable. If you are truly ready to take your chance again - as I am, do write to me. You never know! Photo please. London/Home Counties. Plse Reply to Box No 5070

LICHFIELD, Stourbridge, Walsall, Dudley. Alone! Know the feeling, one phone call could change your life and weekends. We have hundreds of ladies, open w/ends. 01543 450911 Elite Introductions

LONG hair, slim, attractive, intelligent lady: seeks male companion aged 30 - 49 My interests: music, cinema, travel, countryside. East/West Midlands. Please reply to Box No 5002

LOOKING for love - French Anglophile woman, tall, attractive, stylish, feminine, intelligent, cultured & caring, seeks: tall, fit, successful & unconventional soulmate 45-55ish. Hants based. Photo appr Box 5101

LOVE interesting holidays & outings but no fun alone. Attractive widow, late 60's, seeks companion. Midlands. Box No 4988

MAID MARIAN (auburn haired, & faithful dog, starting new life without "Robin" seeks tall, good looking N/S male with GSOH, 35-40 to enjoy an outdoor life. London/ Home Counties Photo plse to Box No 5145

MEN it's simple - one Free call equals 1628 eligible, attractive ladies, plus an active social life at Close Encounters Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Cheltenham, Swindon, Salisbury, Oxford, Reading, London, Kent & Sussex. Call 0800 141 141. Open every day.

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OR YOU COULD CALL...Mike at Close Encounters for SW London. 01932 785165.

POSITIVE, happy, independent lady, slim, attractive, fit & active. Widow. Needs loving, interesting, challenging, fit & comfortable [illegible] Enjoys [illegible] cinema, [illegible] Glos/London [illegible]

PRETTY, professional female graduate [illegible] handsome [illegible] for possible [illegible] North Wales [illegible] to Box No 5308

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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VERY feminine Brunette who has a warm & gentle way about her seeks intelligent sincere home alone male 50-65. Surrey/ Planet Earth. Box No 5173

PRETTY prof. 52 slim, warm, loves the Arts. WLTM slim n/s. Arts grad or similar. London/Herts. Box 5272

PROFESSIONAL, elegant, intelligent, single, Eastern lady, late 40s WLTM meet cultured, prof. genuine gentleman interested in theatres, people & travel for lasting companionship. 5283

S.W. HERTS./London lady, stylish, attractive, charming, articulate, solvent, wide interests, seeks similar positive, successful man (59+) for caring lasting romance. Phone, photo apprec. Reply to Box No 5311

SCANDINAVIAN lady, 42, 5'5", fair haired with outgoing personality and GSOH, separated with children, big house in Surrey, own car, N/S loves gardening, dancing, wining & dining, travelling and lots more. Looking for tall professional male under 50 in Surrey/ London area. Photo & phone no. please to Box No 5323

SLIM feminine retired lawyer youthful stylish appearance seeks warm caring relationship personable cultured 60+ man of integrity liberal outlook & humour. Photo? Box No 5178

SLIM independent brunette (late-thirties). London area seeks (35-48) professional gent, fun pos romance. Box No 5006

SLIM professional lady, warm, caring, seeks company of intelligent, rsponsible, humorous man 45-58. London/SE. Please Reply to Box No 5310

SMART, buxom, good looking blonde (30) with down to earth SOH, seeks (solvent) man for football matches, holidays and reality. North West. Please Reply to Box No 5301

SOUGHT for gorgeous goddaughter: "PLU" gent. of integrity/understanding (40-55ish), pref. widower. Reward: eligible, educated, loyal, stunning, vivacious, discerning mid-30s girl (many interests/ friends). View marriage/start family. Photo plse. Box 5077

SPORTY, thirtysomething, Sagittarian seeks 'got a life' male, 37-44 with VGSOH. Photo appreciated. Box 5223

STARTING OVER Attractive brunette, 44, professional enjoys fitness, food, France, films, friends. WLTM kind N/S fun-loving man. SW London. Please reply to Box No 5269

STARTING OVER unimpressed with 'singles scene' this thirtysomething, attractive blonde fun, fit & sporty WLTM likeminded male. SW London based. Photo plse to Box 5282

STUNNINGLY attractive professional lady graduate, public school. Interests music, theatre, travel, tennis, sailing, swimming WLTM similar gentleman 55-62. London & Southeast. Photo apprec. Box No 5207

SUDDENLY single, vivacious, Jewish redhead, with sense of fun, whose interests include music, books, people & travel. Seeks like minded friend, companion, lover or husband (50-60) with joie de vivre. London/ Home Counties. Box No 5320

SUFFOLK/ESSEX: Single white female, attractive, fun-loving, 30's, seeks confident, successful, unattached man, 38-45, to make life complete. Enjoys dining out, country life, cinema. Photo/letter to Box No 5122

SURELY Jat Sikhs read this column. Elegant & attractive Jat Sikh professional (32) divorced, GSOH, WLTM an attractive Jat Sikh with similar qualities. Photo please to Box No 5167

SURREY country girl, golf playing, poetry reading, animal/children loving, 37 yrs old, attractive brunette, loves life & needs refined, kind, professional man to love her. Photo please to Box No 5285

SWEDISH female 40, Brussels based, beautiful, independent, successful, non-smoker, seeks unattached, tall 1.80m, good-looking, successful, professional / academic male 40-60 for a serious relationship. Please reply with photo Box No 4995

USA Single Lady Attorney seeking Pen Pals from Abroad. [illegible]

VERY attractive [illegible] Please Reply to Box No 5069

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday and Sunday. Call free 0800 141 141.

WARM, affectionate - loving - artistic adventurous professional woman, 47, Seeks interesting - successful professional gentleman to love and adore her - share life's adventures- interests - the Arts, books - theatre - dining in or out - countryside - walking - spoiling my man. Midlands. Box No 5012

WARM, attractive, slim n/s caring lady enjoys sports, country pubs, restaurants & evenings in. Seeks similar gentleman (50-65). W London based. Photo plse to Box 5213

WATERLOVING, scuba diving Piscean - she rides as well. WLTM attractive, fit intelligent, kind & fun loving counterpart(38-48). W.London based but loves exotic places. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5179

WEST COUNTRY, Exeter, Taunton, Plymouth, Weymouth, Torquay, call Close Encounters on 0800 141141.

WEST LONDON, attractive n/s bubbly brunette 38, 5'5" easy going, gsoh with many varied interests seeks like minded 40ish tall gent, to share tlc, fun, laughter/romance. Letter & photo appre. Box No 5267

WEST MIDLANDS, Stratford, Coventry, Leamington, why write to one lady, be in competition with many other men, when one phone call reverses the odds in your favour and puts you in touch with hundreds of ladies in your local area. Open w/ends, call now. Freephone 0800 003444. Elite Introductions.

GENTLEMEN

A BERKS/London based, caring, eligible, middle aged professional seeks "Ms Right". Ideally 30-45, Photo essential to ensure reply. Box No 5162

A CONUNDRUM? If I'm justified in setting my sights so high, why am I advertising here? I am frequently told I'm very good-looking (which always surprises me), six two, 185 lbs, triathlon fit, into crazy sports, spiritually and emotionally open, cerebral, a world traveller, successful Company Director with the best job in the world. Are you 25 to 33, nothing less than stunning (be really honest) super-ultra fit, love sports, v. slim, long legs, with a razor sharp mind, a wit to match and a love of stretching yourself physically and spiritually? If you are, it could be worth a letter and a picture (essential). I hope we'll solve the mystery - Carpe diem. London/Country. Box No 5265

AFFABLE professional male WLTM Miss Right. I'm 31, 6' tall, N/S & London based. You are 20-35, humorous, smart, ambitious yet thoughtful and looking for a man to share your life and cook for you!. ALWP answered. Reply Box No 5325

ALTERNATIVE health practitioner, good natured and good looking, 5'10", forty and fit. European-minded with a range of academic and leisure interests, seeks soul mate. Box 5322

AFFECTIONATE, sensitive Londoner, 52, own international business, well educated, intellectual. Seeks warm, attractive, intelligent, passionate woman to love and be loved by to distraction. Letter & photo please. Reply to Box No 5329

ALONE ON HOLIDAY? Join a schooner party in Turkey for a sybaritic sundrenched holiday. Lots of eligible men, not enough ladies! A floating house-party for discerning travellers. Daydreams 0171 631 4436.

AMBITIOUS, bright, confident, cultured & petite professional - not too much to ask for, is it? Is highly sought after by a 28 yr old London based executive. A stimulating mind & strength of character are far more important than your physical attributes. Box No 5243

AMERICAN Executive LA area, 59, grown children seeks N/S, very attractive, slim, romantic woman 39-55 willing relocate USA. Please be very intelligent, educated, outgoing and fun. Please Reply to Box No 5245

AMERICAN Psychologist, 6', N/S happy in Highgate, seeks lady 50's for walks, music, dialog. Photo helpful. Box No 5064

AMIABLE professional man, 47, 5'9", many interests including books, music, travel, seeks lively, witty woman partner. N London based. Box No 5008

ARE you a genuinely good looking, glamorous, sophisticated feminine lady under 40 years who enjoys dining out, theatre & travel. Then a good looking, successful, generous businessman with strong personality, aged 43, who finds himself unexpectedly alone, WLTM you for a fun one to one relationship. Photo & tel number appreciated. Box No 5249

ARTICULATE, easygoing, caring, fit, solvent, man (50) seeks educated, sincere, passionate, stylish lady (40's) for shared interests in wining/ dining, travel, theatre, music & walking the fells. Photo essential. London/SE. Box No 5292

ASIAN Doctor, 34, seeks independent busy professional female for friendship. Enjoys wine and dining out besides travelling. London & South-East Letter & photo to Box No 5258

ASSERTIVE bachelor (recycled) experienced knight errant, willing rescue erring but submissive lady. 38/48 within chariot ride of London. Box No 5103

A 6' tall professional solvent male, fit, 29, with GSOH is seeking an attractive slim lady 20-35 for fun friendship and romance? Box No 5060

BEATRICE (30-40) sought by Benedick (37). Tell me thy eternal summer shall not fail. Tell me also that you share interests like walking, music, books and laughter. London/SE. Please reply to Box 5119

BEEN the playboy, kept the toys, time to stop being one of the boys. Attractive, well preserved (not pickled), 40's, N/S, very solvent, director of int. co., GSOH, enjoys town & country pursuits. WLTM slim, attractive, intelligent tactile lady, 30's who is looking for long term relationship/ marriage/ family life. Photo/phone no. Box 4984

BIGGLES type: 36, handsome, dashing, solvent, etc. etc. seeks a refined, elegant & well-educated female (28-34) to argue with! London/South East. Photo appreciated. Box 5155

BORED with London, men, pressures? Handsome, eligible country gentleman, 6'2", trim, boyish 36. Well bred but self made entrepreneur, easy going, humorous, creative, adventurous, chivalrous, spontaneously romantic, totally unintellectual. Needs warm hearted, well adjusted leggy beauty 22-30 to whisk away to sanity aboard fast charger. Please reply with photo to Box No. 5164

CAN you tame this Lion in sheep's clothing? Lion - sporty successful prof Londoner (45) with GSOH, lots of TLC and passion. Lioness - slim, gregarious N/S, 32-42 sporty lady with liking for travel. Interested in fun and lots more, then reply with photo to Box No 5112

CARDIFF professional, 42, n/s, 6' tall, athletic build, enthusiastic about fitness, music and travel seeks attractive professional lady in thirties. Please Reply to Box No 5062

CHELMSFORD, Brentwood, Essex. Unique personal service, special offer spring. Free details. Elite Introductions 01798 747099, open w/ends.

CHINESE/Korean girl under 38 sought by 37 yr old man for long term stuff. I am tall, shy, v slim, v handsome boyish looks, good job, GSOH, PhD. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5068

CHRISTIAN, mid 30s, single, attractive, Oxbridge, Director of City firm, SOH, wide interests including the country, current affairs & music would like to meet a caring, educated, professional woman, who ultimately seeks commitment. Letter & photo please. London/ Home Counties. Box No. 5015

CHRISTIAN professional gentleman, Cambridge based. Divorced, age 55, slim, 5'7", active & well dressed. Enjoys classical music & swimming. Seeks affectionate, slim, Christian professional lady, 40-50 years old for a loving, lasting relationship. Plse write, enclosing photo if possible, to Box No 5172

CHRISTIAN man, 36, city banker. Surrey home, enjoys church, music, travel, wine/ dine, countryside. Seeks lady to love and cherish. Box No 5166

CREATIVE professional man, successful Oxbridge graduate (56), no ties, active and energetic. Interests include classical music, travel, theatre, arts generally, socialising, gardening, sport and keeping fit. Busy lifestyle, but now reformed workaholic. Would like to meet articulate and intelligent warm-hearted professional/academic woman, for caring relationship, and marriage if compatible: preferably willing to consider starting or extending a family. Please reply to Box No 5004

DERBY, Burton-on-Trent, Matlock. Alone! Know the feeling, one phone call could change your life and weekends. We have hundreds of men, open w/ends. 01623 825552 Elite Introductions

DORSET, Bournemouth, New Forest. Unique Personal Service. Special Spring Offer. Elite Introductions. 01202 706999.

DAMSEL - but not in distress! - sought by well-travelled bright cheerful tall privately educated successful and amusing knight (43) in tarnished armour: I generally live in central London and enjoy theatre, opera and other social activities; but I also hugely enjoy country pursuits and outdoor activities. If you are elegant considerate affectionate tallish well spoken, and dread the idea of replying, please do so! Photo appreciated - which I promise to return. Please Reply to Box No 5090

DARE to care again. Happily solvent workaholic MD, 40's, free of emotional baggage but with lots of responsibilities seeks soulmate, undamaged by life to share pleasures including theatre, good food, fine wines, Italy & France, country house hotels & country walks, classical music, Radio 4 & above all stimulating conversation, effortless humour, tactile pleasures & lazy Sunday mornings. London based with Elizabethan farmhouse near the Thames in Bucks/Berks. Are you a free spirit, 30-45, intuitively tolerant, loyal & passionate who has retained the innocence to dare to care again. Bespoke letter & photo guarantees response & hopefully dinner. Box No 5193

DOCTOR early 40s, tallish, caring & presentable (London based), no ties. Interests include wine, tennis & travel. WLTM younger lady. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 5196

EASYGOING tall professional male, 35, W. London, varied interests WLTM similar female. Please write to Box No 5257

EDUCATED successful professional 49 with zest & time to indulge in travel & food seeks independent warm female to share adventures. Box 5106

ELEGANT widower, retired professional, attractive, dark hair, slim, easy going, financially secure, 60, Surrey. Enjoys healthy lifestyle, golf, visual arts, sunny climes. Seeking similar lady, around 50's, for long term relationship. Exchange photos/ letters. Box No 5129

ENGLISH gentleman, 50, tall, handsome, fun-loving, caring, creative, loyal and wise. Interested in art, music, theatre and travel, wishes to meet a very young, attractive, tall, slim graduate - professional lady from Asia, America or Europe who loves England and wants to settle here permanently. Photo essential. Box No 5104

EXILED in paradise, cheerful, boyish Scot (48), professional, slim, dark hair, blue eyes, WLT correspond with warm, attractive, witty woman, leading to weekends in French village near Alps & Lake Geneva. Photo please Box No 5273

GENEROUS London based 58 yr old enjoys theatre, music, dining, good wine, cruise holidays WLTM likeminded lady to share these & other pursuits with view to complete & rewarding relationship. Photo appreciated. Box No 4972

GENTLEMAN of the Old School seeks a special lady, softly spoken, intelligent & loving. He is N/S businessman, 60's, interests the Arts, theatre, countryside, travel & holidays. Herefordshire. Box No 5146

GEORGE ELIOT in Middlemarch said: "One can be so many things with a new person - even begin to be a better man". I need N/S lady 55/65 to do just that. Am charismatic, gentle, affectionate, passionate, generous, hotblooded, into soft music, homelife, eating out, travel. Hopefully my lady will be attractive, elegant, easy in casuals and S. of France, loves home life, travel, current affairs, can hug and cuddle. Rewards galore with L'amour toujours. Am ret. divorced prof Dir S. London, N. Surrey, N Sussex. Letter, recent photo, phone no. Please Reply to Box No 5230

GOODLOOKING, good natured sociable prof man (41) divorced, based London. Interests: languages, travel, dancing & the Arts. WLTM slim, attractive Italian or Spanish speaking lady (under 36) for genuine relationship. Photo to Box No 4889

HANDSOME London lawyer. I am a fit 6 ft, N/S man, 42, sociable, gentle & humorous [illegible] seek an [illegible] woman for [illegible] fun & all [illegible] Letter [illegible]

HE is a normal, healthy, 5'11" divorcee, managing to age slowly (58). Has plenty of interests and an agreeable, if undeservedly celibate, lifestyle but can be a lady's man when provoked. Some fine views of Surrey can be sampled from his eyrie enhanced, conceivably, by the owner's appearance (photos exchanged). Box No 5010

HELLO! Capricorn gentleman seeking soulmate. Youthful good looking, 6 ft, mid fifties, secure, enjoys life, i.e. skiing, golfing, theatre, wining, dining, foreign travel, spends time in UK & Spain. Enjoys home & grown up family, animals & garden. Seeks that special person to share life's pleasures. 40/50, good looking, youthful, intelligent, smart, sense of humour essential. P.S. non smoking please. Please Reply to Box No 5281 with photo

HELP put me back together again. Solicitor (47) looking for a new lease on life. WLTM amusing, affectionate professional female for laughter & whatever. Birmingham/ Oxford. Photo to Box 5175

HONEST, sincere, tall 50's gent. GSOH. Keen Country lover with many other interests including music, motorsport, gardening and Dogs. WLTM Lady 40 - 50 in North West to share these and poss long term relationship. Box No 5256

IF I weren't married, I'd marry him myself! My marvellous Godfather, young wife sadly died, highly eligible, loyal, caring, deserves special, rather shy, N/S, PLU girl, 20s/30s. Old enough to be your father, but full of go. Village near London.Write to him. Box 5306

IMPOSSIBLE dream? An attractive and alluring woman to share my life and the Times crossword. Golf in France, ski in Austria, theatre in London, eating out and evenings in my country cottage. I am tall, slim, sensual, caring and handsome, living west of London, with a great sense of fun and humour. I am a management consultant in my 50s and you are non-smoking, gentle and feminine probably in your 40s. I would love a photo with your letter please. Box No 5294

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LIVE Abroad, retired, 49 lonely, overweight (last 2 to go) seeks happy romantic passionate much younger lady for keeps. Please Reply to Box No 5188

LONDON professional man, 47, determinedly youthful and solvent, seeks those happier and more fulfilling times with a discerning, attractive woman, possessing a well honed sense of humour. Photo please to Box No 5121

LONELINESS, the curse of the age, and so, Articulate, cultured, good natured, tactile Jewish widower (50s) loves animals, books, cinema, cigars, music, cricket, swimming. Really needs an attractive feminine companion for possible long term relationship. Herts. Anyone out there? Photo. No. 5327

LOOKING for that elusive lady (50+) - striking, glamorous, refined & unattached. I am well educated, unattached, professional gentleman, tall, handsome, great fun to be with, romantic & loyal looking for a lasting relationship. London/ Home Counties. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 5176

MALE, 51, good looking, 5'8", WLTM loyal, attractive 39-49 female with no ties for lasting relationship. Photo appreciated. London/Home Counties. Please Reply to Box No 5205

M40, J15 intelligent 6'4" muscular fitness junkie 29. European business traveller seeking high standards in life. Looking to meet tall slim educated girl. Please Reply to Box No 5264

NICE Jewish guy, mid forties, cosmopolitan, successful, London based, likes the good life, now ready to settle, wants to meet attractive lady, up to [illegible] Please Reply to Box No 5284

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OR YOU COULD CALL...Mike at Close Encounters for SW London. 01932 785165.

PERSONABLE gentle ret., divorced prof Dir, healthy, fit, seeks spacious homely accommodation, sharing/paying guest/lodger with elegant, personable intelligent, warm, unattached, companionable N/S lady 56-68. SW19/20, N. Surrey. No pets. Terms, recent photo, phone no please. Reply to Box No 5225

PILOT 48 seeks amusing attractive lady pilot or enthusiast to share foreign touring & French food. London/Home Counties. Photo please to Box No 5181

PROFESSIONAL male, 44, Kent, N/S, 6 ft, likes sport, music, travel, bridge, chess WLTM N/S educated female 5'8"+ with European outlook. Please Reply to Box No 5102

READY to start again, 48 yr old, fit, 5'7", slim, attractive Yorkshireman, sails for a living, enjoys golf & sports on land, cooks up a storm. WLTM good looking, shapely female (30-45) for a fun relationship. Photo please to Box No 5163

ROMANTIC and cultured gentleman, 38, London, seeks wealthy older lady to give flowers to. Box No 5305

STRONG but gentle, attractive, tall co-director (42), GSOH seeks v.intelligent, attractive funny, career lady (30-40) London/H Counties. Box 5065

STYLISH tallish fortyish man with own hair, teeth, eyes & other bits. Solvent & home-owner. Seeks slim, sexy lady (30-40) for fun, laughter and who knows... New Forest/ London Photo ensures reply. Please Reply to Box No 5214

SUBTLE sense of nonsense with just a touch of tart sought in a slim N/S woman of class by amusing, Surrey MD of substance, 48, fit, fun, fantastic & tall. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5220

SUCCESSFUL, early forties, company director who works and plays energetically: including motor racing, motor cycling and skiing, seeks bright, warm & affectionate, like minded lady of 35-45 with similar GSOH, for long term relationship. London/ Home Counties. Photo please to Box No. 5291

SUCCESSFUL, mature Greek male seeks female 20-35 for friendship and travel on private yacht. Box No 4692

TALL professional male 38 interests Arts, travel, countryside seeks attractive female 30 - 40. London/East Anglia. Please Reply to Box No 5263

TALL 6'-2" young 50 handsome/prof. own company. WLTM lovely lady 35-45 to share laughs, friends, food, wine and life. Please Reply Photo essential. London, Essex. Box No 5255

TRISTAN seeks Isolde. Record producer, handsome, 28, seeks lady for love's duet. Passion essential for travel, music, spice & all things nice. W/Mids + Ldn. Box No 5262

UNPRETENTIOUS, fit intelligent prof male (37), 6 ft,Berks based. Caring and travelled. Enjoys sport, art, food and good friends. Seeks attractive N/S lady 27-40 to share concerts, picnics, spring days and romantic interludes. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5008

VIRGINIA you responded to Golf & sports loving. Box 4705. Great photo, but no tel no. Plse call James 0171 630 7416 (O).

WEST COUNTRY successful businessman seeks permanent relationship with a slim, N/S lady 30-45. Please do not reply unless able to currently & emotionally commit. A photo will ensure a reply with mine in return. Box No 5199

WEST COUNTRY, Exeter, Taunton, Plymouth, Weymouth, Torquay, call Close Encounters on 0800 141141.

WIDOWER, 70, tall, professional, energetic, WLTM slim, shapely, cultivated lady for lasting companionship. London or Home Counties. Photo & tel. requested. Box No 5186

YOUNG man 23 years, in catering business, fit, good looking, 5'9", slim, WLTM lady age immaterial with nice long legs. London/Home Counties. Reply with photo to Box No 5160

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday and Sunday. Call free 0800 141 141.

GAY (27) frequent visitor to London seeks soulmate. Me: sincere & discrete porfessional, wide interests. You: similar, under 30. Full reply & photograph appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5025

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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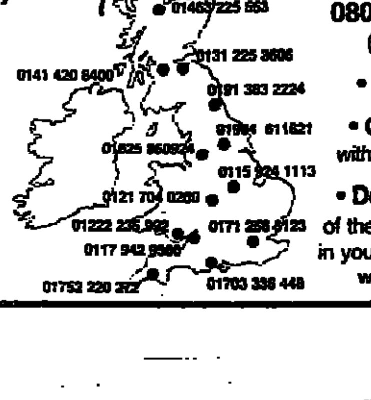

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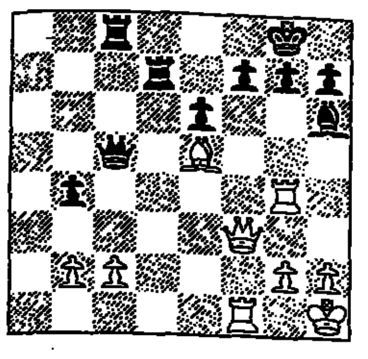
GAMES

CHESS

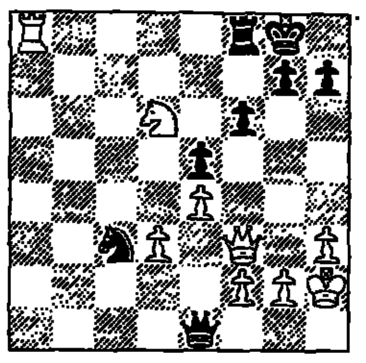
by Raymond Keene

MY DAILY Winning Move puzzles continue to stimulate intense reader debate.



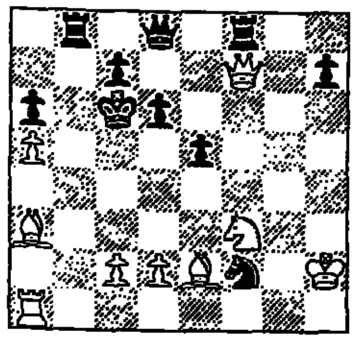
I published this position, from the game Chandler-Speelman, Hastings 1990, on December 29. The given solution was 1 Qf6!, threatening Rxg7+ and Qxh6. Black was forced to try 1 . . . Kh8 2 Rxg7 Qxe5, which left him with a lost game.

Peter Wylie of Devon suggests 1 . . . Kf8 as a better attempt to repulse the attack. However, after 1 Qf6 Kf8 2 Qxe6, White has regained his pawn with a very strong initiative. Yet 1 . . . Kf8 is as good as Speelman's defence, which committed him to an unsatisfactory queen sacrifice.

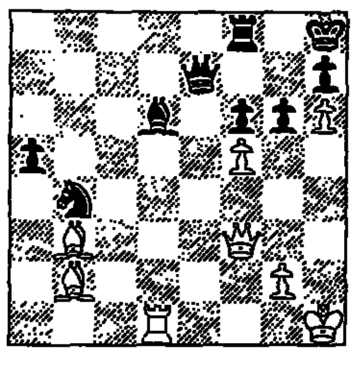


The next position is from the game Varga-Lengyel, Hungary 1995. The given solution was 1 Qf5! Rxa8 (there is nothing better) 2 Qe6+ Kh8 3 Nf7+ Kg8 4 Nh6+ Kh8 5 Qg8+! Rxg8 6 Nf7 checkmate. Also full marks for 1 Qg4 which leads to a similar finish.

D.Sugden of Halifax points out that White has another attractive way to win with 1 Qh5! Rxa8 2 Qf7+ Kh8 3 Ne8! and mate follows. Well spotted! In fact, Mr Sugden's suggestion is slightly faster than the line found in the game.



This position is from a game I played in a simultaneous display in 1995. My opponent (Black) was Philip Bond. How does White exploit the exposure of black's king to force a quick mate? The solution is 1 Nxe5+! dxe5 2 Qc4+ Kd7 (2 . . . Kb7 3 Qxa6 mate) 3 Qd5+ Kc8 4 Bxa6+ Rb7 5 Qxb7+ Kd7 6 Qd5+ and mate follows. Mr Mercado of Essex suggests a swifter mate with 2 Bf3+ Kb5 3 Qb3+ and mate next move. However, 2 . . . e4 throws a spanner in the works.



This position was published on December 27. It is from the game Speelman-Kosten, Hastings 1990. White won with 1 Rxd6 Qxd6 2 Qb7 and if 2 . . . Rg7, 3 Qf7 wins. Mr Shaw of London suggests that Black could try 1 . . . Qe1+ 2 Kh2 Qh4+. The ideas are: 3 Kg1 Qe1+ 4 Qf1 Qe3+ and . . . Qxb3, or 3 Qh3 Qf4+ and . . . Qxd6. This is a good try but unfortunately in the latter variation White can play 3 Qh3 Qf4+ 4 Qg3, protecting the rook on d6 and remaining a piece ahead.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

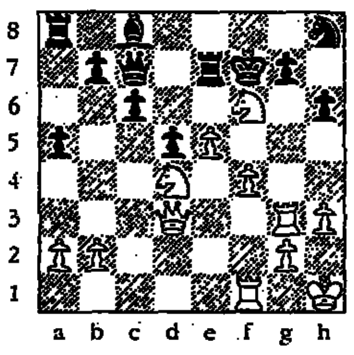
This position is from the game Alekhine - West, Portsmouth 1923.

Alekhine's kingside assault has left the black pieces in some disarray. How did he now conclude his attack in powerful style? White to play.

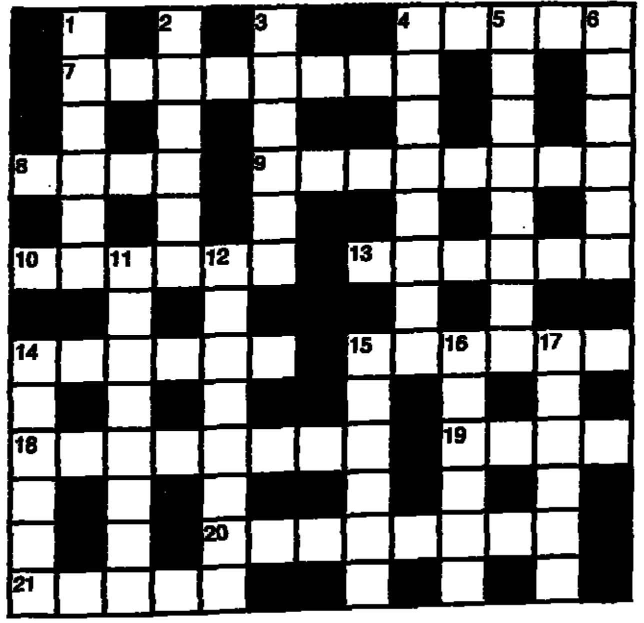
Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qxh7+

Last week's winners: R. Gedling, Epsom, Surrey; C. Collier, Box, Wiltshire; S.A. Osborn, Dover, Kent.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 761

ACROSS

4 Tea-growing Indian state (5)
7 Honorary title in retirement (8)
8 Collapse; American season (4)
9 Fit together neatly (8)
10 Drink of the gods (6)
13 One by one (6)
14 Old chorus-line dance (6)
15 Brief picture, playlet (6)
18 Controller of machinery (8)
19 Fold in tidily; schoolboys' food (4)
20 Make a table out of (8)
21 Trim finely, pare (5)

DOWN

1 Threaten (6)
2 Single-minded enthusiast (6)
3 Steel beam (6)
4 Footnote-indicating star (8)
5 Honest; direct (8)
6 Jester's garb; varied (6)
11 Capital of Australia (8)
12 (Dishes) available separately (1,2,5)
14 Body of singers (6)
15 Brightest star in sky (6)
16 Miscellaneous items added to bill, score (6)
17 Prestige (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 760

ACROSS: 1 Bush-baby 5 Clip 8 Chore 9 Abraham 11 Lid 12 Kid gloves 13 Catchy 15 Forest 18 Architect 19 Don 20 Pioneer 21 Umber 22 Left 23 Verbatim

DOWN: 1 Bucolic 2 Sword 3 Break the ice 4 Brandy 6 Le Havre 7 Pumps 10 Rule of thumb 14 Tick off 16 Tantrum 17 Degree 18 Appal 19 Debut

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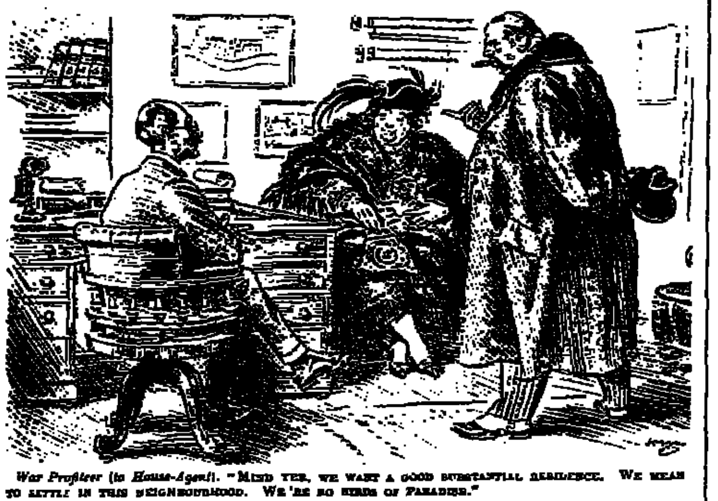
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

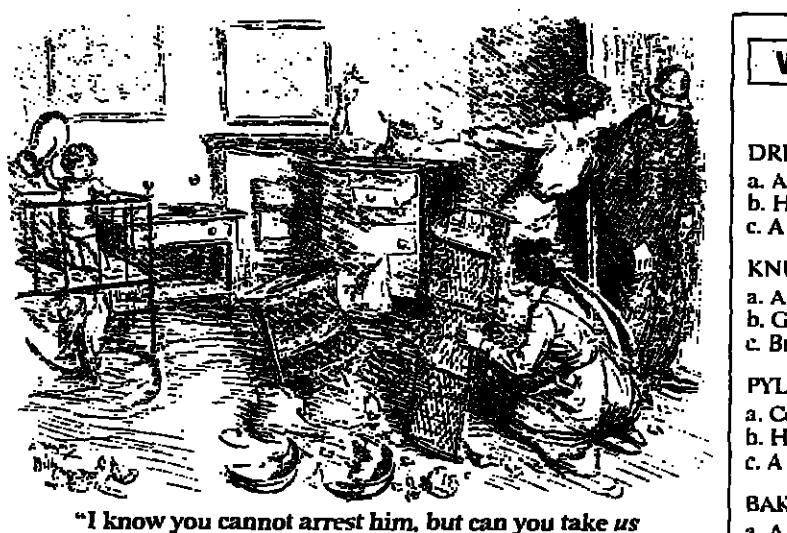
The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions
on a postcard with your name
and address to: Cartoon caption (105)
Weekend Games Page,
The Times, 1 Pennington Street,
London E1 9XN

The editor's decision is final.
The closing date for entries is Wednesday, April 24.



War Profiteer (to House-Agent). "MIND YER, WE WANT A GOOD SUBSTANTIAL RESIDENCE. WE MEAN TO SETTLE IN THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD. WE'RE NO BIRDS OF PARADISE."



"I know you cannot arrest him, but can you take *us* into protective custody"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Dr G. Dunger of Eastleigh, Hampshire

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DRENGAGE
a. A kind of plum
b. Hunting tenure
c. A gauntlet

KNURR AND SPELL
a. A ball game
b. German story-tellers
c. Bread and cheese

PYLADES
a. Ceremonial gates
b. Haemorrhoids
c. A faithful friend

BAKHA
a. A tip
b. A patron
c. A bull

Answers on page 21

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE British Bridge League has selected Paul, Jason and Justin Hackett, Ian Monachan, Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson to represent Great Britain at the 1996 Olympiad in Greece.

The six made up the team that convincingly won the BBL's 1996 Premier League. It is the first time that three members of the same family have played on any major international bridge team, and it is also the first time a "sponsor" has been selected for Great Britain — Ian Monachan pays the other five to play with him in the Premier League. I'm afraid I don't know how much.

It is extraordinary how often it proves to be correct to bid Four Spades on quite modest hands when opponents have pre-empted and/or been raised to Four Hearts. This example is from the Premier League match between Sowter and Rosen.

Dealer East   East-West game IMPs

♠AK932
♥84
♦J7
♣10862

West		East
♠84 ♥KQJ7652 ♦- ♣AQJ7	N W E S	♠5 ♥103 ♦KQ105432 ♣K94

♠QJ1076
♥A9
♦A986
♣53

W	N	E	S
King	Sheehan	Rosen	Senior
-	-	3♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

Contract: Four Spades doubled, by South. Lead: king of hearts

I think it is correct for South to pass over Three Diamonds — an immediate Three Spades would show a rather better hand. King reasonably decided that his hand was worth Four Hearts, although note that his partner's opening bid of Three Diamonds was the worst he could hear. If his partner had passed as dealer, the chance that Four Hearts was making would be greater. In practice, East's hand is quite suitable — 10x of hearts removes any problems in the trump suit, and the king of clubs solidifies West's second suit.

When this came back to Senior, he followed the principle I mentioned earlier in the column. Four Spades was only one off. King was right to double rather than bid on, although Five Hearts is only beaten on the unlikely lead of a heart. If dummy plays low on the heart, South also has to play low or else there are two entries to dummy to ruff out the ace of diamonds and cash the king.

How about this one? You are South, holding

♠A8752 ♥K ♦KJ1064 ♣43

and you have to make a decision in this auction (Love-all, teams, dealer West).

W	N	E	S
3H	Pass	4H	?

Another on the same theme: you are vulnerable against non-vulnerable. Your right-hand opponent deals and opens Four Hearts and you hold:

♠QJ109876 ♥64 ♦K ♣K85

What would you do? I will discuss these two decisions in this column next week.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

WHEN Andreas Whittam Smith, the co-founder of *The Independent*, sold his stake in the struggling broadsheet, he had a clear idea of what to do next. In November 1994, together with his son Ben, he set up an electronic-publishing company, Notting Hill. Now, 18 months later, two of the company's first four titles have been released.

Both are dual format for Windows PC or MAC. **The Art of Singing** is an exploration of the classical singing voice, a title set in an elegant, virtual music academy. Looped samples of angelic singing give the title a good musical backdrop. Awaiting you in some of the locations at the Academy are dressing rooms occupied by such luminaries as soprano Dame Joan Sutherland and bass-baritone John Tomlinson, both of whom were interviewed especially for **The Art of Singing**.

Elsewhere, seminars are given by Dr Jonathan Miller and, unlikely as it seems, Mozart; in the concert hall you can listen to nearly an hour's worth of performances by Luciano Pavarotti and Maria Callas among other singers, while in the CD-Rom's library you can access a complete glossary of singing terms.

There is an awful lot of traipsing around the academy to be done to reach your various encounters, lessons, experiments and simple music games. Fortunately, however, the graphics illustrating the academy are spell-bindingly beautiful. The only drawback is the speed — **The Art of Singing** can be slow and tricky on a 486 PC and should ideally run on a Pentium machine.

Less inviting, for all its clean lines, is Notting Hill's **International Athletics**. Hoping to sell well in the run-up to this year's Olympic Games in Atlanta, this game sees you roaming a sports stadium to track down sporting facts and historical footage. You can also try out your athletic skills in track and field events. Clever as it all is, the endless mouse-clicking required to get you around soon becomes boring and contributes to its impenetrability.

The next titles in Notting Hill's pipeline are **Wines, Spirits and Beer**, based on last year's *Which? Wine Guide* and Bloomsbury's *World Beer Guide*, and **The Evolution of Life**, focusing on Darwinian theory and DNA.

Elegant interiors in *The Art of Singing*

Notting Hill, despite the lacklustre appeal of **International Athletics**, is making an impressive start with sufficient stylish trickery for it to be taken seriously in the years to come.

Staying with less violent sports, Interplay has at last released its **Virtual Snooker** title — and it has been well worth the wait. Like Interplay's **Virtual Pool**, it plays exceedingly well, and you can zoom into or away from the table to ponder your best shots. It boasts a host of fine atmospheric sound effects, such as the crack of the cue and the sinking of a ball into a pocket.

Also like **Virtual Pool**, the game features a tracking toggle to help you to line up perfect shots by showing, with coloured lines, exactly where every ball will go. If bouncing balls off the cushion at the right angle has been your downfall in snooker, then this facility alone will be invaluable in helping to improve your game.

Steve Davis and Ronnie O'Sullivan lend the title their support, with Davis giving snooker lessons. Also included is video footage of the six-times world snooker champion's remarkable 147-point break.

Cyberspace Twenty-Three explores the world of great software clangers, typos and howlers. Have you come across any software mistakes which have amused you or, worse, made your blood boil? To enter the competition, write with details of a goof or mistake that you have spotted in any game or multimedia title, which you should name clearly. Alternatively, just send us your favourite computer joke.

The competition is open to all ages and the three best entries will scoop US Gold software bundles including games **Riddle of Master Lu**, **Chronomaster**, **Tech War**, **Comanche vs Werewolf** and **Johnny Bazookatone**, as well as the history of flight reference CD-Rom, **Dreams of Flight**.

SEND your entries, together with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to Cyberspace Twenty-Three, Computer Games, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax entries to us on 0171-729 6791. The competition closes at midnight on Tuesday April 30, and the judges, as usual, will not enter into additional correspondence.

"Any man with ambition, integrity — and $10,000,000 — can start a daily newspaper."
Henry Morgan (1950).

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3354: Saving Space by Waterloo

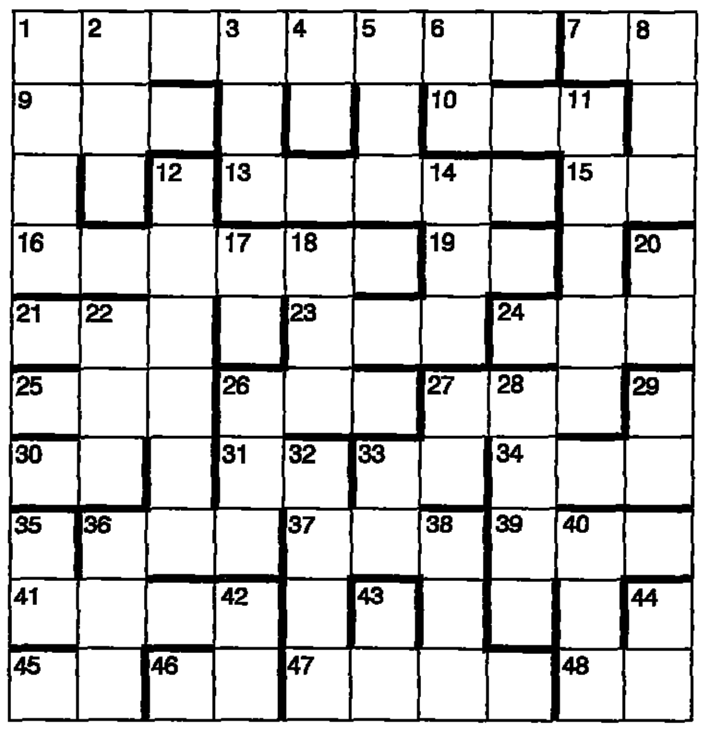
ALL answers share a peculiarity, and are to be entered economically. Pairs may be entered in either order. Punctuation may mislead.

Across

1 Henry laughed head off. You started. Penny laughed head off. You started again, wildly.
7 Eager for a try to get started.
9 Over charges for nuts.
10 Numbers coming in do extract from wigwam, perhaps.
13 Be quiet in long unknown path with too much water in it.
15 It pelted in an Irish style.
16 One is unable to decide for stupid girl accepting two hearts.
19 Whistle-blower leaves, rubbishes the way we do things.
21 Signal urgent start going in over the top and climbing back in.
23 Early results — six points.
24 A representative dance around plain.
25 Object because of cheap holiday accommodation.
26 Bank declares tests.
27 Instruments making noise 1 removed from revolutionaries with time out.
30 A source of amusement for chief officers.
31 One follows teacher and is sometimes kept in — cheek.
33 Wear things that don't come off.
34 With halved Roman numbers Persian king goes.
36 At the Sorbonne I examine returning wealthy travellers. (Two words)
37 Keep dancing, and without a repeated one in, and including original beginning.
39 Tropical tree topped and tailed by goddess, lime, for example.
41 Able to perceive connection between numbers in group.
45 Trees like polliniferous extremities.
46 Zest round fruit.
47 Supports holy man left in ashes, perhaps.
48 Country for game.

Down

1 Random shooting can produce random photos, but sometimes conclusions.
2 One place to find royal blood blackening.
3 Item of little value increased without king before joker turned up.
4 Unbridled luxury started in fifties moment of quiet.
5 Line in comforts and supports.
6 Educated guy, and 'e dropped out — comes back, smart guy.
8 George I drops three tablets — it could get you stoned.
11 Trumpet sounds organised in farewell thrash without the heroin.
12 Dry in name, accepting inadequate service and partaking in idle conversation.
14 Wife, perhaps, joining in almost half of spouse's demands for silence.
17 Get up, put foot out, get in line and swing.
18 Girl's two articles getting there in France.
20 Parent's brothers, no longer often seen, seem changed.
22 Never celebrated, dangled, headless, wrapped in cheap paper? The reverse.
26 Goddess with productive power cut short suddenly, according to Spenser.
27 It's smart getting in what comes after three Rs, hanging around dubiously.
28 A state lawyer takes on tax for Indian singer.
29 Pundits sacrifice first extinct annals.
32 Moved harvests subject to transmutation.
33 Lark produced egg.
35 Spots vaguely imagined ailments and snuffs it.
36 Says taking out always interrupts sideways movements, restricting straps.
38 Dig out Scottish bear hugging dog with no oxygen in it.
40 Ornament permissible with a missing note put back.
42 Bear, small one, English.
43 A bird losing its tail on the wing.
44 Way of getting tattooed properly in very short time.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3354

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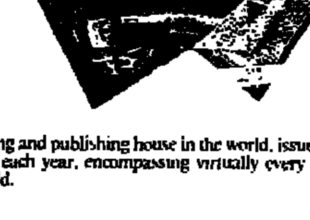
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3354, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, May 2.

The winner will receive: **The Cambridge Encyclopedia**, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with over 36,000 entries; **The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language**, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**.



Cambridge University Press, the oldest printing and publishing house in the world, issues some 1,500 new publications in over 190 countries each year, encompassing virtually every subject seriously studied in the English-speaking world.

Solution to 3351
All the Threes, by Foxglove

TRIDIMENSIONAL TRIPLETS

Misprints

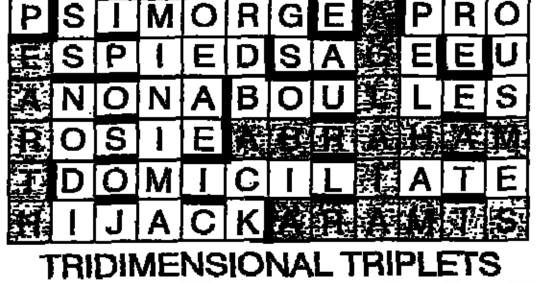
1A. Fate; 11A. Roman; 13. time; 19. rad; 26A. living; 31. marquetry; 36. plane; 37. novel; 3. Fates; 8. river; 16. book; 18. van; 26D. snaffle; 30. cells.

Trios (clue answer, light, third member)

1A. Megaera, Alecto, Tisiphone (furies); 12. arithmetic, writing, reading (three R's); 34. Jacob, Abraham, Isaac (Patriarchs); 37. Athos, Aramis, Porthos (musketeers); 3. Atropos, Clotho, Lachesis (Fates); 6. beginning, middle, end; 25. Euphrosyne, Aglaia, Thalia (Graces); 27D. air, earth, sea.

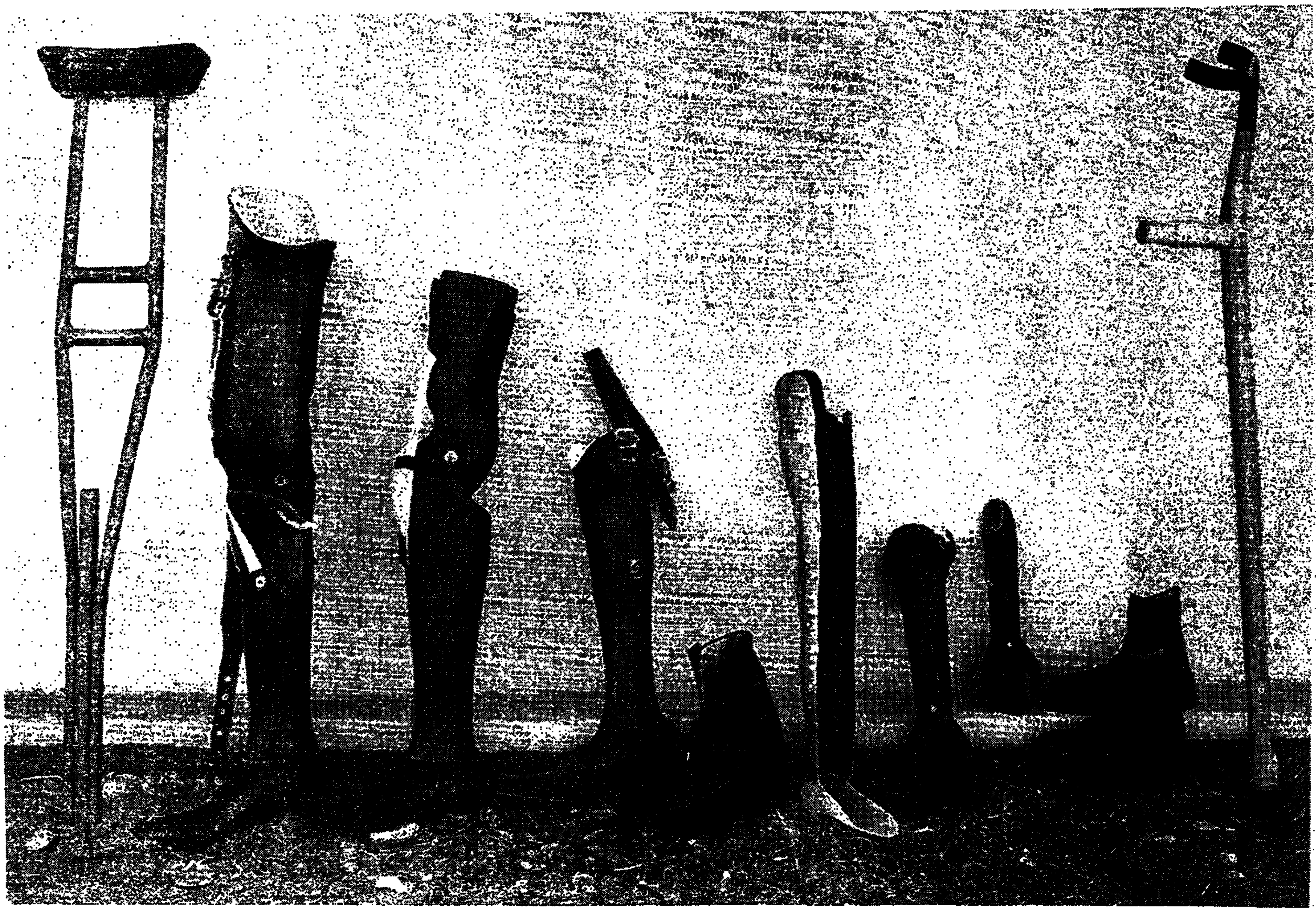
● **The winner is:** G. Willett of London NW3
The two runners-up are R. Webb of Solihull, West Midlands and R. Prinn of Discovery Bay, Hong Kong

● Statistics relating to 1995 crosswords, including personal record, are available to senders of an SAE (220mm x 110mm; from overseas, stamp exempt) to J.E. Green, 31 Bishopric Court, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1TJ.



TRIDIMENSIONAL TRIPLETS

FORGET LONDON, PARIS AND ROME. THIS IS WHAT THE WOMEN IN PHNOM PENH ARE WEARING.



Today the growth industry in Cambodia isn't fashion. It's prosthetics.

The country has around 20,000 amputees from a population of just 8.5 million. This means one amputee for every 236 people (compared to a figure of one for every 22,000 people in America).

So why is the *situation* in Cambodia so bad?

The country has suffered from civil unrest for many years. But the real villain of the piece isn't so much the war, as the weapons.

Cambodia is literally being crippled by anti-personnel landmines.

They are an incredibly cheap form of warfare (costing as little as 3 US dollars each). So to seize some tactical advantage combatants think nothing of deploying scores of these weapons.

In a single 1km stretch of road in Cambodia 6,000 landmines were found.

They are also deployed with scant regard for the indigenous population.

It is the men, women and children out working the fields who are most likely to fall victim to these hidden killers.

And in an *agricultural society* where muscle power means survival, the loss of a limb can have repercussions far beyond the physical disability.

Take just one of Cambodia's victims. Chhea Veou was 19 when she lost a leg walking to harvest rice in a paddy.

"I cannot earn money because no one will employ me. I wanted to have children. But no-one will marry me because I don't have a leg."

And so she is forced to follow the dangerous paths into the rice fields at harvest time. She shrugs. "What else can I do?"

It's because of Chhea, and thousands like her, that the Red Cross is urgently seeking your help. The carnage must end.

For further information fill in the coupon or call 0171 201 2060.

To: British Red Cross, Room 592, Freepost, London SW1 7BR.

I want to know more about the effects of Landmines and what I can do to help. Please send me your information pack.

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Address__________

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British Red Cross will automatically update you with more information from time to time.

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Gartmore gets its timing right for Japanese launch

Japanese consumers are taking a different attitude and looking outwards

Japanese dignitaries bidding farewell to President Clinton on Thursday night were able to do so on a happy note. In Britain at least one fund manager was equally happy with the outcome of the US presidential visit. In particular, he was pleased that it coincided with news that the politically sensitive and huge trade surplus between America and Japan had fallen by 27 per cent in the year to March. Indeed, the whole timing of the President's Japanese visit could not have fallen better for Michael Wrobel, managing director of Gartmore, who this week unveiled plans for a new Select Japanese Investment Trust. Last year nothing went right for Japan and the market indicators were largely negative. A soaraway yen, zero growth, little inward investment, banking scandals and an ever growing trade surplus with the US all acted as a drag on the long-mooted recovery of the world's second largest stock market.

This year is different, says Mr Wrobel. While other major world stock markets, including our own FT-SE 100 and the US Dow Jones industrial average, are reaching new highs, the Japanese market is still 40 per cent below its all-time high in December 1989. This, in theory at least, should leave plenty of room for capital growth prospects.

According to the latest Merrill Lynch Gallup survey, UK fund managers are heavy buyers of Japanese equities, with 77 per cent taking a bullish view on the next 12 months. With the Japanese Government easing the heavy burden of regulation, consumers are discovering an appetite for foreign goods. Car manufacturers, for example, are beginning to make inroads into the domestic markets, making distributors a natural buy for the new Gartmore trust.

Mr Wrobel also points out that the number of personal computers in Japan is 14 per 100 people, compared with 46 in the US. The comparable statistics for mobile telephones are 7 per 100 in Japan and 12 per 100 in America.

TRUST WATCH

Gartmore, which last week became part of the NatWest empire, has taken the house view to be overweight in Japan and underrepresented in the US market. Mr Wrobel points to the most positive indicators being a weak yen, political stability, record low interest rates and the return of capital expenditure on much needed investment in companies and rising retail sales.

The Wrobel approach to individual stockpicking will be the "top down" approach with the sector or industry coming first and then being narrowed down to the company. He adds: "The trust's portfolio is expected to maintain a relatively broad spread of investments, comprising between 60 and 70 individual holdings, with initial emphasis placed on smaller and medium-sized companies in domestic manufacturing, electronics and real estate. We will also emphasise themes including companies which will benefit from a weaker yen or from structural change, for example, the rapidly growing personal computer market."

This will be the first trust launch since the £470 million NatWest acquisition and Gartmore will be out to prove its mettle with its new owner.

Still in the Pacific Rim but this time excluding Japan, is a new Asian Values investment trust from Fidelity which will be launched officially next week. K.C. Lee, who will manage the newcomer, will cast his net wide and include markets such as India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and China.

Finally, TR Pacific Investment Trust yesterday announced that its bid for Thornton Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust had been successful. The TR trust, managed by Michael Watt, offered new TR Pacific ordinary shares, or a cash alternative, for a Thornton trust that had long languished at the bottom end of the performance scale.

The TR bid was neat and clinical. Many other poor performers should sit up and take note.

Gartmore: 0800 919 727
Fidelity: 0800 414171.

ROBERT MILLER

Bid talk generates National Power

The million or so shareholders in National Power have seen the value of their holdings rise by nearly 20 per cent over the last week on speculation that Southern, the Atlanta-based utility, is seeking a merger (Caroline Merrell writes). Although NP rejected the idea that the two should talk, the share price remained at around 590p yesterday, up from 492p at the start of the week.

Analysts believe that despite National Power's reticence, a merger or takeover may still be on the cards. Southern could come back with a formal hostile bid. Southern successfully bought South Western Electricity (Sweb) through a hostile bid last year for a price of 965p — representing a return of 302 per cent on the issue price of 240p in 1990. National Power believes that combining with Southern of the US and its subsidiary Sweb is not as good an option as its own strategy of bidding for Southern Electricity of the UK.

However, the outcome of this latter bid, and any future plans for Southern of the US to snap up National Power, will hinge on a decision by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade. It is expected he will decide whether to approve National Power's bid for Southern in the next ten days. This decision about allowing vertical integration between generators and the regional electricity companies could also affect the remaining four independent electicity companies — Yorkshire, Northern, East Midland and London.

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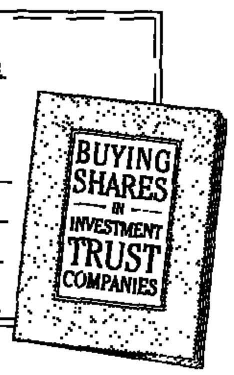
PRUDENTIAL



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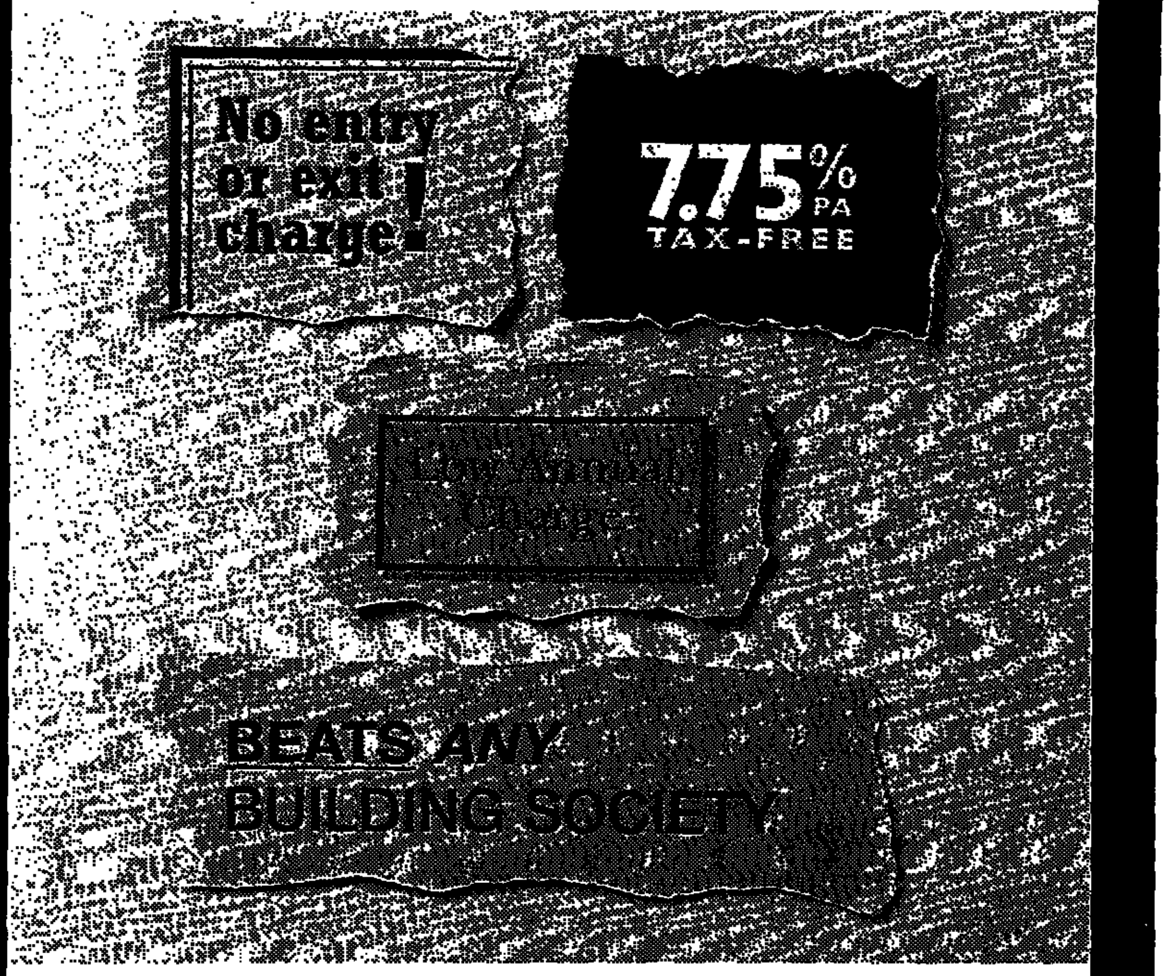

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*Estimated gross yield at 4.4.96. The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount you invested. Part or all of the annual management charge may be paid out of capital - while this will enhance the income distributed it may constrain capital growth. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Save & Prosper Group Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. We only advise on products and services offered by the Fleming and Save & Prosper Marketing Group.

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Up-to-date guides on social security

RECENT government figures reveal that benefits worth up to £3.2 billion a year — more than £60 million a week — are going unclaimed, with 4.7 million people living on incomes below income support level. The Child Poverty Action Group has revised and updated its two handbooks which explain the social security benefit rules as they apply from April 1996.

The National Welfare Benefits Handbook provides a guide to claiming means-tested benefits, particularly income support, housing benefit and family credit. The booklet, costing £8.95, includes the new income support rules affecting people in residential care, lone parents and under-25s, and housing benefit restrictions.

Rights Guide to Non-Means-Tested Benefits explains all non-income related benefits, including unemployment benefit, disability living allowance, statutory sick pay, and pensions for widows. The guide costs £7.95. Send a cheque to CPAG Ltd, 1-5 Bath Street, London EC1V 9PY.

☐ Investors who find themselves owning shares in quantities so small that it could cost more to sell them than they are worth, could donate them to charity. The *ShareGift* scheme enables shares donated in this way to be transferred into the Orr Mackintosh Foundation, a registered charity, whose purpose is to realise as much value as possible by selling the shares. Parcels of shares will be aggregated, sold, and the proceeds will be passed to UK charities. Call 0171 461 4501.

☐ Maclay Murray & Spens, the law firm, has launched a new independent valuation service for with-profits life assurance policies. The service will assess market value rather than surrender value of policies, advising on the loan available and interest rate applicable against the policy. The new service is available only through professional advisers. Call 0141 2485011.

☐ The new rules for public offers of securities are explained in a Treasury booklet, which will help issuers of securities, investors and their professional advisers understand the main features of the legislation. Send a £2.50 cheque to HM Treasury, Public Enquiry Unit, Room 110/2, Parliament Sq, London SW1P 3AG.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Portman BS 01202 292444	Inst Access	Instant	£100	4.80	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£2,500	5.10	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Gt Nth Postal	Postal	£5,000	6.25	A/Yly
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2438292	Albion	Postal	£10,000	5.60	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nrwch & Ptrbrgh BS 01733 391497	Postal 10	10 day p	£10,000	6.10	Yly
Coventry BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day p	£2,000	5.45	Yly
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 75	75 day	£1,000	6.00	Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	120 Account	120 day	£25,000	6.75	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£8,575	7.40	F/Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505		5 year	£3,000	7.25	Yly
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721		5 year	£1,000	7.25	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£25	7.25	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.92%C	11.50%	Nil
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%	£12
Frizzell Bank 0800 373191	MasterCard/Visa	1.17%	16.10%	Nil

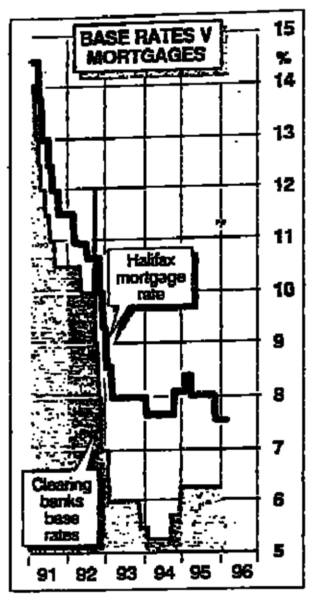
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

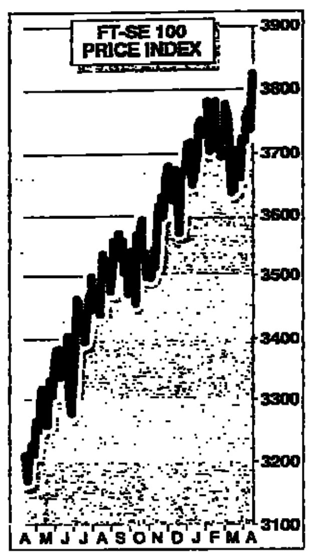
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0141 2489966	13.90%E	£112.86	£101.33
Yorkshire Bank 0113 231 5324	14.60%	£117.68	£102.09
Midland 0800 180180	14.90%	£115.82	£102.49

Nb. A = 2% bonus if Account opened by 30.4.96, C = no interest free period, D = for debt consolidation only, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), G = Annual rate 5% above R Fleming base rate, OM denotes interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	1.75	1.31	1.05	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*ₑ	5.00	3.75	3.00	20-500**	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* ₑ	6.25	4.69	3.75	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond₄	6.25	4.68	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
43rd Issue Cert†₂₃	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds ₑ	6.65	4.98	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Linked†₃	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3 ₑ	7.00	5.25	4.20	500-50,000₅	60day	0645 645000

*¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ₑGuaranteed when held for 5 years ⁴0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁵£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings ¶Taxable but cred in full **Tiered rates apply.*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ....Level	£10,238	£11,402	£12,979
Stalwart * ....Level	£10,322	£11,359	£12,453
Prudential............Level	£10,306	£11,323	£12,693
Equit Life.............Level	£10,277	£11,187	£12,381
Royal Life ....Level	£10,034	£11,165	£12,699

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Stalwart * ....Level	£9,419	£10,307	£11,158
Prudential ....Level	£9,552	£10,285	£11,361
Canada Life ....Level	£9,413	£10,248	£11,473
Royal Life ....Level	£9,305	£10,138	£11,364
MGM Assurance ..Level	£9,360	£10,113	£11,229

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Stalwart * ....Level	£9,232	£9,905	£10,859
Prudential ....Level	£9,174	£9,752	£10,571
Canada Life ....Level	£9,002	£9,656	£10,585
MGM Assurance ..Level	£8,976	£9,568	£10,438
Equitble Life..........Level	£9,046	£9,563	£10,276

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at April 18, 1996

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	5,000	AIG Life	5.05
	10,000	AIG Life	5.10
	20,000	AIG Life	5.25
	50,000	AIG Life	5.35
2 Years	5,000	AIG Life	5.98
	10,000	AIG Life	6.13
	20,000	AIG Life	6.23
	50,000	AIG Life	6.43
3 Years	5,000	AIG Life	5.98
	10,000	AIG Life	6.23
	20,000	AIG Life	6.38
	50,000	AIG Life	6.48
4 Years	5,000	AIG Life	6.21
	10,000	AIG Life	6.41
	20,000	AIG Life	6.51
	50,000	AIG Life	6.56
5 Years	1,000	Premium Life	5.60
	3,000+	Pinnacle Insur	6.75

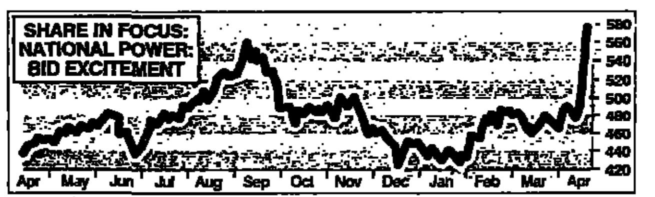
Source. Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	100.17	9.348	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	119.42	9.723	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	133.88	9.707	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	139.90	9.543	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	132.53	9.793	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	125.23	9.658	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	115.03	10.208	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	92.63	9.446	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	123.54	9.438	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	142.41	9.595	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	138.50	9.638	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	113.66	9.446	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	133.06	9.466	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	135.74	9.281	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	133.44	9.631	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/09-21/03)	8.58750%	103.63	100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/03-20/09)	8.70625%	100.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Fixd to 30.4.97
Yorkshire 0800 378836	0.74	£150-250k	90	6% disc 6 mths, 2% disc 18 mths
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	0.99	£100-150k	75	High Equity dsc 6.25% to 1.5.97
Banks				
Nat West Home Loan 0800 400999	1.75	£15k+	90	5.50% discount for 12 months
Barclays 0800 000929	3.50	£15k+	90	3.75% discount for 12 months

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.11	£1-150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 months
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	£30-100k	95	6.99% dsc-6mth, 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.49	£15k+	75	Fixd to 31.7.97
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.5% disc-6 mth 3% disc-6 mths
Nat West 0800 400999	1.75	£15k+	90	5.50% discount for 12 months

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.71	£15k+	95	6.54% disc 6 mth, 2.5% disc 6 mths
Skipton 0800 446776	1.25	£25-150k	95	6% disc 5 months, 1.75% disc 12 mth
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	3.19	£30k+	95	3.80% discount for 12 mths
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc 6 mth, 4.49% disc 6 mths
TSB Bank Local branch	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for 12 months

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	532.70	563.80	+ 7.70	
UK Equity	674.90	714.20	+11.30	...
Property	522.10	552.50	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	356.60	377.40	+ 1.90	...
Money	263.70	279.10	+ 0.10	...
International	469.50	496.90	+ 9.30	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	191.60	201.70	- 1.60	..
Ethical S4	159.50	167.90	- 3.70	...
International S4	225.10	237.00	- 2.60	...
Protected Gilt S4	121.80	128.30	- 1.00	
Asian Pacific	223.70	235.50	+ 2.70	...
European S4	206.10	217	- 1.90	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	378.80	398.80	...	...
Equity Ser 4	266.50	280.60	+ 6.20	...
Man Ser 4	776.90	817.80	+11.80	...
Conv Ser 4	345.90	364.20	- 0.30	...
Money Ser 4	345.60	363.80	- 0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	368.70	388.20	- 1.80	..
American Ser 4	618.80	651.40	+ 7.50	...
High Inc Ser 4	799	841.10	+16.30	..
Indexed Inv Ser 4	223.00	234.80	- 0.50	..
Japan Ser 4	382.40	402.60	+ 2.90	.
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1887.50	1986.80	+32.60	.
European Fd Acc	451.80	475.60	+ 3.50	...
Fixed Int Acc	539.20	567.60	- 3.60	...
Gtd Money Acc	352.30	370.80	+ 0.30	..
Intl Managed Acc	756.50	796.30	-13.20	.
Int Fxd Int Acc	365.00	384.10	- 1.20	.
Japan Fund	283.90	298.80	- 0.90	
N American Acc	408.00	429.40	+ 5.60	..
Prop Fd Acc	457.60	481.70	- 0.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1208.30	1271.90	+14.50	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	393.70	414.50	+ 0.50	..
Equity Acc	1700.90	1790.40	-32.90	.

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	232.10	245.60	+ 9.10	...
Euro Opportunity	257.60	272.50	+ 2.10	...
North Amer Opp	220.20	233.00	+ 5.70	...
Far East Opp	226.00	239.10	+ 2.40	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	162.40	170.90	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	200.30	211.90	- 0.30	..
Fixed Int	212.80	225.10	+ 0.90	...
Cash	167.00	176.70	+ 0.10	6.49
Overseas	347.10	361.40	+ 5.20	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	414.70	436.60	+ 7.00	...
UK Equity	703.10	740.20	+24.50	...
Property	267.40	281.50	+ 0.30	...
Money Market	265.10	279.10	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	313.90	330.50	- 2.00	...
Japan	386.80	407.20	+ 2.80	...
North America	201.50	212.30	+ 5.10	...
International	394.80	415.60	+ 8.10	...
European	337.40	355.20	- 2.80	..
Far East	163.10	171.70	+ 1.50	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth 1	277.80	...	...	..
Managed	389.90	410.50	+ 6.30	...
Property	249.30	262.40	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	257.20	270.80	+ 1.50	...
Equity	449.90	473.50	+ 9.90	...
Cash	226.40	238.40	...	...
CLife Euro Mgd	448.90	472.60	- 3.80	...
CLife Intl Fd	416.70	440.80	+ 5.00	...
Managed Fund	831.20	874.90	+ 7.10	.
Property Fund	539.20	567.60	+ 0.50	...
Equity Fund	1101.70	1159.70	+10.40	...
Gilt Edged Fd	656.50	691.00	+ 1.70	...
Deposit Fund	351.30	369.80	...	...
Investment Fd	480.50	504.90	+ 8.40	
International	642.30	676.10	+ 6.70	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	165.70	174.50	...	..
Managed Fund	736.30	775.10	+ 9.90	...
Equity Fund	430.00	452.70	- 7.50	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				

هدايا من الاصل

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Helen Pridham on securing an adequate pension for the rest of your life

Can retirement come too soon?

PENSIONS GUIDE
PART
8

Retirement cannot come soon enough for many of us. A recent survey by Barclays found that 68 per cent of people hope to retire before 60 — a third of them would like to stop working before 50.

Retirement is no longer seen as the end of the road but an opportunity for people to lead a more satisfying existence doing what they want. Early retirement has also become more common as companies have cut costs by offering early retirement as an option to older, more expensive, staff.

Among men aged 60-64, the percentage of those working has fallen from more than 80 per cent in the early 1970s to just over 50 per cent in the early 1990s.

To enjoy an early retirement, though, it is necessary to have an adequate pension. This is why many end up working longer than they would like, because they find that once they have done their sums, the idea of living on a small pension becomes less attractive.

Clive Scott Hopkins, of Towry Law, the financial advisers, said: "Anybody contemplating early retirement needs to consider well in advance how much income they will need so that they can build up their pension by making extra savings.

"Members of company pension schemes should consider topping up with additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) and making full use of their Pep allowances. Personal pension investors have the advantage that they can mop up missed contributions in past years."

Your potential pension on early retirement will depend on a number of factors, such as the type of pension you have; the length of time you have contributed, the terms of the scheme and the circumstances in which you take early retirement. In almost all cases, however, retiring early will mean you get a lower pension than if you had waited until your normal retirement age.

This is partly because you will have made fewer contributions and/or completed fewer years of service. It is also due to the fact that your pension will have to be spread over a longer period.

For example, a man who retires at 55 will, on average, draw his pension for seven years longer than a man who stops working at 65. You won't get more (unless you live longer than expected) because the amount of your pension will generally be lower throughout. In addition, you may incur early retirement penalties if you retire before a specific age. These will vary between schemes.

Occupational Schemes

ACCORDING to the latest annual survey of the National Association of Pension Funds, 60 per cent of schemes still have a normal pension age of 65, while 28 per cent set their pension age at 60, with the remainder somewhere in between.

The majority of schemes which have had to equalise the pension age for men and women have equalised at 65 rather than 60, though where this has involved raising the age employers will usually allow retirement at the previous pension age without penalty.

Anyone who wants to go earlier than this, however, may be penalised. Peter Timberlake, Legal & General's marketing manager, says: "In a final salary scheme, people can lose out in two ways — not only will they have fewer years' service, an early retirement discount may also be applied to their normal pension entitlement. This discount is typically 0.5 per cent for every month their retirement precedes the normal pension age. So someone who wanted to retire five years early, say, would not only have five years less service but would also incur a 30 per cent early retirement penalty."

This makes early retirement at your own request rather unattractive, unless you can defer drawing your pension until the normal age and live off other income or capital in the meantime. However, if early retirement is offered by an employer seeking to reduce staffing, penalties may be removed to encourage volunteers. If the employer is really generous, the full period of service you would have completed to normal retirement age will also be used in your pension calculations. Such concessions may also be made if your retirement is because of ill-health.

In employers' money purchase schemes, the level of pension you get on early retirement will depend mainly on the size of your pension fund and annuity rates at the time. Some schemes may also have early retirement penalties, though employers can augment your pension if they are anxious to shed staff. Still, you could suffer because of the lower annuity rates that apply at younger ages. Bob Marriott, pensions specialist at Sedgewick Noble Lowndes, says: "It may be worth considering a switch to a pension income withdrawal scheme which would enable you to take a cash sum, say, to pay off your mortgage plus a minimum income, if you could supplement it with income from other sources so that you could defer buying your annuity until you are older."

Personal Pensions

BENEFITS from a personal pension policy can be taken from the age of 50, unless you are a member of a profession given special dispensation by the Inland Revenue to retire earlier (see list). However, there may be early retirement penalities imposed by your insurer to recoup costs if you take your pension before the end of a certain term or age. Check this out before going ahead. It may be better to wait a few years until the penalty is lifted.

The size of your pension fund will depend on how much you have saved and the investment returns achieved by your pension provider. Mr Timberlake says: "The problem is that many people simply do not invest enough in their personal pension to be able to afford to retire early." The other main variable is annuity rates. The younger you are the more expensive they are. A married man of 55 with a pension fund of £100,000, for example, will get a pension £1,250 less than someone of 65. Shopping around for the best annuity rates may help you to get a better deal, and if it is anticipated that interest rates are about to rise, it may be worth postponing your retirement until annuity rates improve. Alternatively, a phased retirement, or pension income withdrawal scheme, could be used to delay annuity purchase.

State Pensions

THERE is no provision under the state pension scheme for early retirement, unless you retire through ill-health in which case you may qualify for other state benefits. Otherwise you will have to wait until normal retirement age.

If you take early retirement before age 60, there is even a danger that you may have a gap in your National Insurance record which could affect your entitlement to a full basic state pension.

Provided that you "sign on", however, you will receive NI credits which will bridge this gap.

Retirement is often seen as something affecting the elderly, but how you earn your living can dictate a "premature" pension date. The minimum age dancers can jump for joy is 35

LENGTH OF RETIREMENT

Average years life expectancy at different ages

Current age	Males	Females
50	24.3	29.4
55	20.1	25.0
60	16.4	20.9
65	13.0	17.0

ANNUITIES AND INCOME

Assumes fund size of £100,000, joint life level annuity payable monthly in advance

Male age	Female age	Pension per year £
50	45	7,992
55	50	8,398
60	55	8,935
65	60	9,849

Source: Legal & General

MINIMUM RETIREMENT AGES

The following are from personal pension schemes for certain occupations

	Retirement Age
Athletes	35
Badminton Players	35
Boxers	35
Cricketers	40
Cyclists	35
Dancers	35
Divers (saturation, deep sea and free swimming)	40
Footballers	35
Golfers	40
Jockeys: Flat Racing	45
Jockeys: National Hunt	35
Models	35
Motor Cycle Riders (motocross or road racing)	40
Motor Racing Drivers	40
Royal Marine Reservists (non-commissioned)	45
Rugby League Players	35
Skiers (downhill)	30
Speedway Riders	40
Squash Players	35
Table Tennis Players	35
Tennis Players	35
Trapeze Artistes	40
Wrestlers	35

Source: Inland Revenue

An Equitable way to top up your company pension.

Did you know that to receive the maximum pension available, you would typically have to be a member of the same company pension scheme for 40 years?

Or that changing your job, even once, could dramatically reduce your pension? So that, just when you have more time to enjoy life, you have less money.

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How to save £000's on your mortgage and reduce the term by 10 years.

If you're in the market for a new mortgage consider the benefits of the Early Payment Plus Mortgage from Mortgage Trust.

Firstly, it allows you to alter the speed with which you repay your mortgage to suit your needs. For instance, if you increased your monthly repayments by £200 on a £100,000 mortgage (from £706.14 to £906.14) you could pay your mortgage off in 15 years instead of the more usual 25 years - saving you over £39,000 in interest. Equally, you can pay off larger sums (or all of your loan) at any time without penalty and you get credited from the day you pay, not at the end of the month or year.

Secondly, you can borrow back extra payments you make during the term of your mortgage - again without penalty. All you have to do is call us and we'll transfer the agreed amount directly to your bank account - or send you a cheque.

Thirdly, our variable mortgage rate is extremely competitive at 6.99% (APR 7.3%); we'll lend up to 95% of the property valuation on purchases; and we'll lend you up to 90% of the property valuation on re-mortgages.

Finally, your mortgage will be supplied by Mortgage Trust which is the specialist UK lending subsidiary of First National Building Society - founded in 1861 and one of the longest established and largest building societies in Great Britain and Ireland.

For more information about the Early Payment Plus Mortgage please telephone our customer service team on 0800 550 551. Calls are free. Alternatively, contact your Independent Financial Adviser.

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CALLS ARE FREE

MAF01

Our Customer Choice programme supports you in receiving the financial advice you need. If you have financial advisers, please ask their advice. If you do not have an adviser but would like one, please call us and we will provide you with three Independent Financial Advisers for you to choose from. If you do not need any independent financial advice, we will be happy to deal with you directly.

Mortgage Trust is the specialist UK lending subsidiary of First National Building Society. A first charge over the property together with a charge over an acceptable life policy will be required as security. Applicants must be over 18 and all loans are subject to valuation and status. A written quotation is available on request. Typical example based on interest-only loan £100,000 over a term of 25 years on an endowment basis for the purchase of a residence valued at £134,000. The interest rate is 6.99% variable (APR 7.3% variable), for the purposes of this example, it is assumed that it will continue at the same level for the term of the loan. The loan would require 300 monthly payments of £[illegible] gross, £[illegible] net of MIRAS (applied at 15% up to loan amount of £30,000). The total amount payable is £[illegible], which includes the original loan of £100,000 payable at the end of the term with the proceeds of an endowment assurance. The total amount payable includes solicitors' mortgage charges of £[illegible], a telegraphic transfer fee of £20, a sealing fee of £50, a deeds despatch fee of £47 and an application fee of £[illegible], which are all payable before completion of the mortgage. For loans in excess of 75% of the lower of the purchase price or mortgage valuation a maximum advance fee (on a sliding scale) is payable. Full details are available from Mortgage Trust Limited, Sir William Atkins House, Ashley Avenue, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5AS. Telephone 01372 737737.

Mortgage Trust

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Mortgage Trust Limited is the specialist UK lending subsidiary of First National Building Society

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grolund Amer	213.70	226.10	+5.70	0.15
Grolund Equity	282.70	300.70	+4.80	1.79
Grolund Euro	273.20	289.10	+1.40	0.57
Grolund Expl Bar	132.30	137.10		2.57
Grolund Gilt	75.85	78.19	+0.24	6.13
Grolund Japan	189.50	300.50	+1.80	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	664.60	707.10†	+17.30	2.49
General Inc	564.90	600.80†	+14.70	2.49
UK Growth Acc	451.30	480.00†	+12.10	2.70
UK Growth Inc	296.30	315.20†	+8.00	2.70
Higher Inc Acc	806.60	858.40†	+20.80	4.13
Higher Inc Inc	440.30	468.30†	+11.40	4.13
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	204.50	216.40†	+1.40	5.67
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	91.97	97.14†	+0.62	5.67
Nth America	372.60	396.40†	+7.70	
Europe	356.50	379.30†	+5.30	0.32
Brit Excell	90.64	96.43	+3.69	2.80
Brit Fndmtls Acc	116.50	124.00†	+2.40	4.73
Brit Fndmtls Inc	79.88	84.98†	+1.67	4.73
Global Opps	105.40	112.20	+1.70	0.23
Balanced Acc	64.01	68.10†	+1.21	2.59
Balanced Inc	60.50	64.37†	+1.15	2.59
Japan Acc	49.92	53.11†	+0.49	
Pac Basin Acc	431.60	459.30†	+2.00	0.77
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	128.10	136.00†	+0.90	7.35
High Inc Equity	185.10	198.00†	+5.10	4.25
Worldwide Bond	289.70	307.10	+0.30	4.56
American Growth	360.30	385.40	+3.50	0.19
Asian Pacific	357.70	382.60	+4.20	0.08
Assets & Earnings	310.90	330.70	+7.70	2.72
Euro Capital Acc	179.80	192.30	+1.90	0.69
Extra Inc	44.35	47.18†		8.01
General	280.90	298.80	+7.90	2.94
Global Opps	68.23	72.58	+1.24	0.56
Japan	133.90	143.20	+1.10	
Managed Inc	48.59	51.69†	+0.56	4.50
Mastertrust	170.40	182.20	+2.50	1.41
US Emerging Cos	204.50	217.60	+6.70	
Ethical	85.77	89.12	+2.48	2.48
International	142.10	151.20	+2.00	0.58
Dividend & Growth	69.25	73.67	+1.85	4.17
Global Gwth & Sec	72.68	77.59	+0.12	2.42
Latin America	61.75	65.69	+2.45	
Capital Reserve	142.90	142.90		5.25
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2206.00	2296.00	+40.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	58.53	60.78†	+0.83	0.50
Emerging Mkts	74.49	78.69	+1.44	0.04
European	145.70	154.60	+0.70	
Exempt	1056.30	1125.70†	+26.10	1.65
Extra Income #	47.59	51.14†	+1.29	6.48
Far East Emg Ecn	138.30	145.20	+1.50	0.43
Fixed Interest #	24.71	25.70	+0.35	9.14
Fund Inv Tst	153.80	161.50†	+5.10	9.50
Japan	195.50	203.40	+3.20	
Latin American	55.64	58.04	+1.61	0.84
Pacific	89.67	94.16†	+1.14	0.39
Property Share	66.82	70.14	+2.63	2.50
UK Emerging Cos	72.35	77.78	+1.41	1.24
UK Growth	52.38	55.37†	+1.24	2.12
New World Port #	84.13	85.69	+1.68	1.91
Ethical	79.06	82.22	+1.27	2.14
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.12	50.12†	+0.20	7.49
For AEGON see Matheson				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Residl Property #	94.10	101.00	+0.10	5.10
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	90.76	96.30†	+3.06	2.01
Income Builder Inc	81.51	86.71	+1.34	2.71
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg. 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	277.00	296.10†	+6.00	3.14
Capital	497.60	531.90†	+11.80	1.18
Balanced	820.10	876.60†	+19.60	2.37
Accumulator	1564.00	1671.00†	+39.00	1.87
Income Trusts				
American Income	60.06	64.11	+0.38	2.49
High Income	449.30	480.30†	+9.50	3.94
Equity Income	253.80	271.10	+5.20	3.90
High Yield	270.30	288.80†	-0.80	4.05
Govt Securities	33.29	35.15†	+0.26	6.21
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	212.30	226.80†	+3.60	0.05
European Growth	50.67	53.97	+0.75	0.07
International	194.50	207.80	+1.20	0.11
Japan	221.90	237.20	+3.00	
Pacific	447.10	477.90	+2.50	
Secs of America	579.30	616.50	+10.10	0.13
Wwide Asset Val	58.19	62.20	+1.26	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	627.60	670.90	+17.10	1.50
Conv & Gilt	49.13	52.52	+1.28	4.15
Smaller Cos	212.60	227.20	+5.60	0.98
2nd Smaller Cos	201.60	215.50†	+5.20	0.86
Recovery	171.10	182.90†	+6.00	1.54
Met Min & Cdty	187.60	200.70	-1.60	0.15
Overs Earnings	419.40	448.30	+9.30	1.12
Technology	226.60	242.20†	+9.20	
UK Special Sits	505.00	526.40	+13.70	1.00
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pens	117.80	132.30†	+2.20	3.04
Foundn Pers Pens	70.22	72.95	+1.14	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	82.56	87.82	+2.11	1.61
International	72.05	76.65	+1.19	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	338.40	362.00	+8.00	
Bond	114.50	120.50†	+1.40	7.00
Brit Smlr Cos	121.00	128.70	-2.40	1.75
Com & Gen #	73.36	78.04	+1.44	5.10
Europe	277.00	294.00	+3.80	0.57
Euro Smlr Cos	123.10	131.10	+0.10	0.61
Income Grwth	392.30	417.20†	+9.60	4.22
Japan	346.20	368.50	+4.60	
Latin American	80.92	86.09	-2.63	0.92
Pacific	124.20	132.10	+2.50	1.11
UK Smlr Cos	61.42	65.34	+0.34	1.24
Japan Fd	722.00	744.30	+10.20	
Mngd Fd	205.30	217.80†	+5.50	2.77
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Overs	369.20	390.50	+4.30	0.91
Capital Grwth	128.20	135.60	+3.80	2.43
Wwide Opps	225.50	238.60	+2.80	0.87
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Brit Inv Fd Inc	420.60	438.10†	+3.50	2.48
European Bd Inc	95.61	98.97	-0.56	6.56
Exempt	80.76	86.02†	+0.42	3.80
Financial	97.63	104.30	+2.20	2.38
500	520.10	562.30	+17.60	2.40
General	325.20	347.90†	+8.30	2.46
Property	245.50	263.40†	+3.60	6.26
Trustee	224.20	239.40	+5.30	2.29
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.30	100.30†	+0.10	5.31
Extra Income #	135.70	145.10†	+3.30	4.77
Gilt & Fxd Int	57.12	59.13	+0.44	8.22
Income #	596.30	636.70	+13.90	4.59
Income Builder #	70.43	75.13†	+1.67	5.26
Intl Income	71.62	76.19	+1.16	2.98
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	140.70	150.10	+3.70	2.07
Leisure	178.10	190.50	+5.60	0.82
Recovery	491.50	525.60	+12.90	2.62
Smllr Cos Inc	57.06	61.18	+2.76	1.96
Special Sits	388.30	415.30	+10.60	1.32
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	171.90	182.80	-2.90	0.21
Aust Acc	291.70	311.40	1.80	2.07
Aust Inc	175.90	187.70	-1.10	2.07
Euro Gwth Inc	189.70	201.40	-1.60	0.57
-do- Accum	204.60	217.50	-1.80	0.57
Japan & Gen Inc	165.90	176.70†	+2.30	
-do- Accum	168.80	178.70	+2.30	
Japan Spec Sits	76.64	81.19	-0.94	
Worldwide	201.50	213.90	+2.40	0.55
BARING FUND MANGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	125.60	132.70	-1.80	
Amer Smllr Cos	168.40	179.50	+4.30	
Convertible	61.56	65.96†	+1.24	4.30
Eastern	336.50	351.60	-0.30	0.30
Equity Income	97.33	104.00	+2.70	3.80
European Growth	271.60	291.70	+6.10	0.80
Europe	231.60	252.90	+5.10	1.90
German Growth	87.22	92.53	+0.69	0.50
Global Bond	70.24	73.93	+0.37	6.50
Global Growth	150.10	160.10	+2.10	0.40
Japan Growth	217.10	231.70	+3.40	
Japan Smllr Cos	176.80	187.50	+5.60	
Korea Trust	80.29	87.61	+3.17	
Portfolio	145.90	157.40	+2.90	2.30
-do- Accum	275.00	294.76	+5.40	2.30
UK Growth	99.95	107.40	-3.00	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	95.53	103.90†	+3.60	2.50
Select Managers	90.30	96.77†	+1.85	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	92.65	98.56	+0.43	
Special Oppor Inc	63.41	67.96	+0.50	
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	140.99	149.19†	+6.67	1.47
-do- Accum	162.52	171.97	+7.68	1.47
Smaller Cos	147.01	155.57	+5.14	0.64
Higher Yield #	55.63	58.87†	+1.53	3.94
American Gth Inc	99.72	105.52	+2.92	
European Growth	161.09	171.41†	+1.50	0.12
-do- Accum	165.24	174.86	+1.64	0.12
Global Bond Inc #	27.52	29.52	+0.76	7.01
Mngd Ptflio Inc	53.29	56.37†	+1.10	1.27
-do- Accum	54.92	58.09	+1.15	1.27
Intl Spec Opps	164.47	174.04	+4.11	
Pacific Grth	156.62	165.73	+1.97	0.23
UK General #	96.23	101.92	+4.21	3.32
-do- Accum #	101.30	107.20	+4.43	3.32
Japan	64.45	68.20	-0.51	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	98.43	102.35†	+0.90	8.72
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	64.58	65.41†	+0.30	6.45
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	187.90	197.80	+3.50	1.53
UK Growth	206.50	217.70	+5.20	2.06
UK Income	145.80	152.40†	+2.90	4.50
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	234.60	248.70	+4.00	1.50
-do- Income Dist	122.20	130.60†	+0.30	3.65
-do- Accum	396.20	420.00	+8.00	3.63
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.73	42.28	+0.30	6.43
Growth Units	247.50	264.40	+5.30	2.02
Bond	171.60	180.30	+1.20	7.40
Intl Growth	253.80	269.30	+3.40	0.19
North American	251.10	267.40	+6.30	0.19
Far East	327.30	350.20		0.65
UK Smaller Cos	225.60	239.70	+7.50	0.97
European	97.00	102.10	+1.50	0.68
Japanese Growth	51.52	54.79	+0.27	
High Income	216.30	231.00	+3.90	4.07
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	216.20	229.70†	+4.00	
European Inc	92.96	99.51	+1.27	0.80
Smaller Cos (4.1)	163.74	170.37†	+2.54	1.41
Growth	532.50	566.50	+9.30	1.56
Income & Growth #	364.20	493.90	+10.30	3.74
-do- Accum #	695.10	729.30	+15.20	3.74
Japan & Gen	75.28	79.91†	-0.87	
Mngrs Portfolio	£117.60	£121.51†	+218.00	1.97
-do- Accum	£144.20	£146.89	+267.00	1.97
Special Sits	123.70	131.60	+2.20	1.63
High Yield	£15.12	£15.59	+32.00	4.8

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	101.52	108.29	+1.98	2.39
American Portfolio	118.56	125.92	+0.99	0.90
European Portfolio	127.76	136.11†	+0.50	0.42
High Income	50.83	50.94	+0.31	7.69
Japanese Portfolio	73.81	78.49†	+0.91	
Pacific Portfolio	164.14	176.50	+0.88	1.38
UK Equity	96.89	103.52†	+2.52	2.79
UK Equity & Bd	59.49	60.15	+1.04	6.45
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	759.19	770.67	+8.19	4.20
Fxd In Sec	152.80	153.42	+0.17	8.32
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	746.47	757.75	+7.16	4.33
Investment Acc	£33.65	£34.16	+32.34	
Fixed Int Inc	123.44	123.94	+0.03	9.36
Fixed Int Acc	214.63	215.69	+0.03	..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	89.11	94.08	+0.96	3.16
Beck Bio-Tech	47.15	50.83	+1.20	
Acorn Ethcal Tst	183.16	192.33	+3.09	0.58
City Fin Assets	79.46	83.44†	+0.84	1.96
City Fin America	122.54	128.68†	+3.43	
City Fin Intl	98.25	103.20†	+1.81	0.79
City Fin Japan	162.39	170.62	+3.14	
Friars Hse Cap	321.93	342.48	+1.17	2.19
Friars Hse Inc	205.64	218.77	+1.17	4.05
Buckley Wwd Grth	154.06	163.30†	+2.42	
Fairmont Cap Gth	158.81	167.17	+2.60	
Fairmount Intl	168.16	177.01	+1.22	...
J Sld Inc/Gth Inc	58.04	60.95	-0.31	1.54
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.59	63.23	-0.44	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	78.87	83.90	+1.54	
Dragon Growth	76.02	81.30	+0.02	0.36
Equity High Inc	91.19	97.01	+2.09	4.10
-do- Accum	128.36	136.56	+2.95	4.10
Extra Income Inc	25.76	27.12†	+0.17	7.59
Extra Income Acc	27.56	29.01	+0.18	7.59
European Gwth	63.74	67.63	+0.70	0.95
Evergreen	31.28	33.45	+0.59	
General Equity	102.67	109.15	+2.93	2.81
Japan Growth	55.45	58.99	+1.30	
Pedigree Gwth	63.21	67.24	+1.68	2.35
Pad Sm Cos Inc	37.74	40.15	+1.07	1.43
-do- Accum	39.74	42.28	+1.12	1.43
Retirement Inc #	28.44	30.25	+0.78	5.79
Special Sits	48.12	51.19	+1.39	1.91
UK & Overseas	60.19	63.88	+1.36	0.69
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01834 896 000				
Balanced	68.72	71.49	+1.72	4.01
Capital	82.86	86.20	+2.25	2.27
High Income	50.33	52.36	+0.50	7.24
Top 50	56.25	58.52	+1.84	2.08
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0161 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	185.64	197.49†	+3.75	4.65
Fixed & Convertible	41.08	43.70†	+0.41	6.65
Monthly Inc Plus	48.84	51.96†	+0.41	8.62
Preference Share	46.73	49.71†	+0.49	8.02
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	134.69	143.29†	+2.17	5.95
Managed Fund	77.01	81.93†	+0.81	2.87
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	49.53	52.69†	-0.35	1.87
-do- Accum	58.58	62.32†	-0.41	1.87
UK & General	95.11	101.18†	+1.91	2.64
-do- Accum	123.45	131.39†	+2.49	2.64
UK Growth	184.52	196.30†	-3.79	1.43
International Growth Funds				
Europa Growth	215.21	228.95†	+1.49	0.61
Far Eastern Gth	146.83	156.20†	+1.79	0.03
Global Bond	82.87	88.09†	+0.67	5.63
Japan Growth	124.11	132.03†	+0.70	
North Amer Gth	230.57	245.29†	+3.98	
Oriental Growth	90.01	95.76†	+1.76	0.28
Worldwide Growth	76.59	81.48†	+0.92	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.63	91.63†	+0.07	5.29
Homemaker Fund	92.95	98.88	+1.36	1.53
Quilter Fund	156.02	165.98	+2.87	1.88
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	36.45	39.02	+0.61	3.19
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	185.20	197.00	-6.70	1.55
Income	72.50	77.13	-1.76	4.87
European	73.79	78.50	+1.09	0.58
Recovery	181.10	192.70†	-7.90	1.32
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	960.70	975.90	+27.00	3.41
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	107.50	114.30†	+2.40	1.13
Income #	281.90	299.80†	-1.90	3.99
-do- Accum #	737.70	784.70	+11.00	3.99
Smaller Cos	230.00	244.60	+5.00	0.94
-do- Accum	294.30	302.40	+6.20	0.94
Gth Portfolio	101.10	107.50	+1.80	1.58
High Inc Port #	82.06	97.29	+1.14	4.35
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1681.60	1738.60	-5.30	
Japan Small Cos	1394.90	1421.70	+21.00	
UK Small Cos	2142.50	2231.60	+48.60	2.77
US Small Cos	2139.80	2182.50	+34.90	0.95
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	227.60	239.60		3.00
For Dunedin see Edinburgh				
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	168.30	179.00	+4.30	1.80
UK High Inc Inc	175.80	187.00	+3.90	3.65
-do- Accum	233.20	248.00	+5.30	3.65
UK Pref & F I Inc	58.38	62.05	+0.48	5.96
Envrnmnt Opps	100.60	107.00†	+2.20	0.93
UK Smll Cos #	68.71	73.09	+2.54	0.80
Extra Income Inc	47.63	50.66	+0.47	8.71
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 528				
American	175.40	186.10	+2.30	0.43
Convertibles #	23.11	24.55†	+0.36	5.70
Equity Income #	144.60	153.60†	+3.50	3.91
EuroFund	61.63	65.47	+0.73	0.31
Financial	54.18	57.57	+0.82	1.56
Growth & Inc #	288.30	306.30	+6.20	2.78
High Dist #	183.20	194.70	+3.90	4.37
International	456.10	484.60	+5.50	0.06
Int Cap Inc	105.70	112.80†	+1.10	2.48
Latin American	31.76	33.75	+1.08	
Pacific	92.06	97.81	+1.17	
Pref High Inc	22.03	23.41†	+0.23	7.05
Tokyo	247.90	263.20	+1.70	
UK Smaller Cos	259.80	276.00	+7.60	1.09
Dunedin Und Trusts				
European Gwth	330.80	349.30	+1.90	0.60
New Asia	254.30	271.30	+1.70	0.21
Japan Growth	121.20	128.90	+2.90	
Jap Smllr Co	493.50	525.60	+6.90	
Nth Amer	396.30	418.90	+7.30	0.70
UK Inc & Gth	251.20	267.80	+6.60	2.65
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BPI Director Dsgs	114.95	122.94	+0.73	1.06
Growth Acc	251.90	268.95	+1.74	0.72
Income	616.21	652.16	+18.85	4.81
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	231.50	236.30	-2.80	0.98
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	94.06	99.01	+0.93	1.97
Ethical Tst	50.58	53.34	+1.17	0.77
Far Eastern	336.47	354.19	+4.54	1.45
High Income	144.88	152.51	+3.95	4.54
UK Index Trcking	49.95	52.58	+1.16	3.18
Intl Growth	143.58	151.14†	+2.35	0.22
North American	144.59	152.20	+1.78	1.45
Pelican	138.90	146.21†	+3.57	3.08
Smaller Cos	74.20	78.10	+1.83	2.75
Special Sits	98.43	103.61	+2.99	2.53
Tst of Inv Tsts	214.80	226.11	+3.67	1.14
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	220.19	234.24†	+5.85	1.21
Smaller Cos Acc	392.37	417.41†	+10.42	1.21
Recovery	56.53	60.14	+1.44	1.41
Recovery Acc	57.91	61.61	+1.47	1.41
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	86.99	93.29†	+2.16	
Fd of Inv Tsts	52.31	55.80	+1.09	0.52
High Income #	37.81	40.52†	+0.52	11.25
Warrant	54.64	59.39†	+1.19	
Zero Preference	42.06	44.63	+0.27	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	90.40	96.16†	+2.77	2.59
United Charities	298.30	317.30†	+9.50	4.15
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.50
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	27.33	27.41†	+0.18	7.29
Intl Bond	29.83	30.94	+0.14	5.42
Income Funds				
High Income	25.84	27.12†	+0.32	5.22
Income Plus	127.20	135.30	+2.20	3.91
Amer Eq Inc	61.60	65.25	+1.12	1.36
European Income	48.83	51.89	+0.56	2.21
Far East Inc	68.62	72.94	+0.31	2.26
Global Convertible	25.68	27.34†	+0.34	2.56
UK Div Grth	30.60	32.54	+0.73	2.09
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	74.55	79.52	+0.26	
American	328.70	348.40	+3.60	
Amer Spec Sits	184.40	196.70	+2.40	
Japan Smaller Cos	38.71	41.30	+0.74	
European	218.80	232.70	+1.60	0.58
European Opps	78.38	83.34†	+1.10	0.13
Global Prv	31.55	33.65†	+0.32	0.67
UK Growth	120.50	128.00	+2.40	1.12
Growth & Inc	174.00	185.10	+4.60	2.61
Intl PEP	46.98	49.96	+0.82	0.97
Japan Spec Sits	100.00	106.60	-2.20	
Japan	195.60	207.70	+2.10	
Managed Intl	347.50	369.20	+6.40	0.40
Moneybuilder	67.64	71.92	+1.25	
Recovery	59.35	63.11†	+0.37	1.22
South E Asia	185.20	197.60	-0.40	0.98
Special Sits	731.90	778.30	+24.30	0.59
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	113.85	113.85	+0.09	5.50
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	155.50	158.10†	+1.50	1.68
Inc Ptflio #	97.48	99.11	+2.15	3.44
Cap Ptflio	162.90	165.60	+2.40	1.08
General Oseas	140.50	142.30†	-0.80	3.76
Growth Inc	37.55	38.25	+0.73	0.94
Private Portfolio	495.40	505.00	+9.20	1.07
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 386 Admin Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	148.00	157.30	+1.10	0.34
Emrg Asian	172.10	183.00	+3.10	
High Income	22.14	23.49†	+0.29	5.58
UK Income	116.40	124.00	+2.00	4.07
US Smaller Cos	411.30	438.70	+5.30	
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
-do- Inv Tst Inc	82.84	87.11†	+2.35	3.93
Investment Trust	110.84	116.56†	+2.35	
UK Smaller Cos	109.17	114.80	+3.45	0.89

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	78.83	83.98†	+1.94	
-do- Accum	78.89	83.98†	+1.94	..
Amer Smllr Cos	682.10	729.50	+24.40	
-do- Accum	696.80	745.20	+24.90	
Capital Tst	387.20	411.90†	+11.30	1.21
-do- Accum	565.60	601.70†	+16.50	1.21
Contl Smllr Cos	65.91	70.17	+0.14	0.75
-do- Accum	69.55	74.04	+0.14	0.75
Convertible	143.80	153.00	+2.60	5.08
-do- Accum	305.30	324.80	+5.60	5.08
Emerging Markets	72.15	77.08	+1.41	...
-do- Accum	72.39	77.34	+1.42	
European	145.00	153.80	+1.80	0.36
-do- Accum	152.50	161.70	+1.90	0.36
Extra Income	382.30	406.70	+2.00	3.76
-do- Accum	595.00	633.00	+3.00	3.76
Financial	161.00	171.30†	+0.60	0.41
-do- Accum	171.20	182.10†	+1.20	0.41
Gilt Trust	62.74	64.68†	+0.20	6.77
-do- Accum	95.03	97.99†	+0.52	6.77
Health Fund Inc	279.40	298.50	+9.00	..
-do- Accum	279.40	298.50	+9.00	
Income & Growth	231.70	246.50	+4.20	3.19
-do- Accum	362.20	385.30	+6.40	3.19
Intl Growth	444.00	473.30†	+7.70	
-do- Accum	493.00	525.60†	+8.50	..
Japan & Gen	191.80	203.60†	+3.60	
-do- Accum	193.70	205.90	+3.60	
Monthly Inc #	192.50	204.80†	+3.70	4.58
Managed Port Inc	122.50	128.90†	+2.00	1.63
-do- Accum	133.00	140.00†	+2.20	1.63
Quarterly Income #	57.76	61.91	+1.32	4.32
-do- Accum #	64.62	69.27	+1.49	4.32
Recovery	375.20	401.30	+5.80	0.06
-do- Accum	443.00	473.80	+6.80	0.06
UK Growth	66.65	70.90	+1.13	2.07
-do- Accum	70.63	75.14	+1.20	2.07
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	59.68	63.48	+1.09	0.36
FP Am Smllr Cos	203.90	218.00	+7.40	
FP Asian Growth	301.40	322.30	+1.70	..
FP Australian	415.60	445.90	-2.30	
FP Equity Dist	454.90	483.90	+10.10	2.46
-do- Accum	986.10	£10.49	+22.00	2.46
FP Euro Gth	273.00	290.40†	+1.90	0.22
-do- Accum	298.60	317.60	+2.10	0.22
FP Intl Bond	60.57	64.89	+0.35	4.83
FP Intl Gth Dist	39.16	41.79	+0.52	0.38
-do- Accum	57.18	61.02	+0.77	0.38
FP Pac Basin Acc	234.60	250.79	+1.70	
FP Income #	60.29	64.30	+1.14	4.85
-do- Accum #	203.80	217.30	+3.80	4.85
FP Jap Smllr Cos	323.10	344.60	+3.30	
FP Monthly Dist #	76.00	81.10†	+1.29	5.62
FP Stlg Deposit	100.30	100.30†	+0.10	5.35
FP Tokyo	90.68	96.08	+1.27	..
FP UK Focus	42.43	45.90†	+0.74	2.47
FP UK Growth	197.00	210.10	+4.80	2.44
-do- Accum	390.90	416.80	+8.90	2.44
Stewardship Dist	424.60	451.70	+13.80	1.67
-do- Accum	528.50	562.20	+17.10	1.67
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	82.70	87.97	+2.32	4.64
-do- Accum #	111.10	118.10	+3.10	4.64
N Am Stshp Dist	123.80	131.60	+3.10	0.68
-do- Accum	132.70	141.10	+3.30	0.66
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	128.20	136.30	+1.80	1.30
Open Cap Gth Acc	133.00	141.40	+2.20	0.16
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	120.50	128.10	+1.50	2.46
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	126.00	134.00	+1.50	2.46
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	122.10	129.80	+1.80	3.44
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	128.50	136.60	+1.90	3.44
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 108/7				
GANDA	290.10	306.70	+8.70	2.01
Cash	49.68	50.42	+0.04	5.28
Growth Portfolio	92.32	97.86	+1.62	0.84
Income Portfolio	71.46	75.56	+1.22	4.07
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	235.20	251.60	+1.90	1.25
Dividend	96.92	103.70	+2.30	4.11
Inl Gth & Inc	251.60	269.10	+5.00	2.80
UK & Gen	50.22	53.71	+1.20	2.02
Fund of Funds	77.87	83.28†	+1.39	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0177 628 9431				
Amer Spec Sits	265.60	284.10†	+4.30	0.12
European	684.10	729.60†	+1.90	0.65
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	53.44	56.80†	+0.47	5.00
-do- Accum	59.27	63.00	+0.53	5.00
Far East & Gen	292.80	313.20	+0.60	
Germany	139.10	147.50	+3.20	
High Yield #	48.67	51.43	+0.46	8.22
-do- Accum #	51.92	54.85	+0.48	8.22
Income Inc	191.10	204.40†	+2.00	4.18
-do- Accum	214.60	229.60	+2.20	4.18
International	400.50	427.30†	+6.00	0.29
Intl Income	94.27	99.79	-0.13	2.89
Japan & General	456.30	484.80†	+3.50	.
Korean Securities	70.02	74.89	+3.88	
Orient Acc	185.80	198.80	+5.00	0.17
UK General Inc	201.40	215.40	+5.70	0.88
UK General Acc	356.40	381.20	+10.10	0.88
UK Smlr Cos Inc	50.87	54.41	+0.88	3.98
-do- Accum	57.29	61.28	+0.99	3.98
UK Spec Sits	102.30	109.40	+1.90	1.18
US Growth	188.10	199.50	+3.40	
Wwide Spec Sits	164.10	174.90	+0.80	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	60.40	64.40	+1.60	1.77
Cash Trust	143.54	143.54†	+0.12	5.36
Practical Inv Inc #	124.44	133.09†	+1.83	2.55
-do- Accum #	293.48	313.88†	+4.31	2.55
UK Index	178.38	179.28†	+4.64	3.19
UK Smaller Cos	173.48	185.54	+7.54	0.63
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	23.99	24.86†	+0.21	7.96
High Income	34.70	37.06	+0.62	5.07
UK Equity Income	158.18	169.18	+2.85	2.91
Global Bond	30.27	31.37†	+0.13	5.39
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	49.66	53.11†	+2.01	
Global Managed	154.92	164.77†	+2.40	1.24
Gold & Intl Res	125.86	134.61	-3.07	
Global Utilities	150.51	160.44	+2.79	1.35
Overseas Funds				
American	196.36	208.67	+3.86	0.91
European	135.06	143.16	+1.74	0.71
Euro Sel Opps	203.82	216.32	+2.66	
Amer Emerging	167.69	179.35	+4.48	
Hong Kong	163.57	175.04	-0.75	1.81
Japan	265.66	282.48	+3.46	
Pacific Growth	244.77	261.79	+5.06	
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	256.68	256.68†	+1.66	1.96
Long Term Bal	279.41	279.41†	+5.36	2.78
Med Term Bal	227.57	227.57†	+3.43	2.98
UK Equity	299.55	299.55	+8.14	2.39
UK Emerging Cos	178.89	178.89	+5.46	1.86
American	315.48	315.48†	+4.20	1.02
Japan	144.95	144.95†	+1.13	
European	347.60	347.60†	+3.97	0.82
Index Linked Gilt	179.50	179.50†	+1.20	2.71
Fixed Interest	168.31	168.31	+1.80	6.52
Amer Emerging	380.31	380.31†	+8.97	
Pacific	270.22	270.22	+6.32	0.68
Emerging Mkts	132.83	132.83	+4.34	0.21
Index Strat Japan	162.89	162.89	+2.19	0.09
-do- Pacific Rim	219.64	219.64	+3.33	1.17
-do- Cont Europe	185.06	185.06	-1.31	1.67
Index Strat USA	183.68	183.68	+3.23	1.78
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	120.76	128.47	+0.85	
Med Term Bal	108.18	115.08	+1.74	
Long Term Bal	125.41	133.41	+2.56	
UK Equity	138.47	147.31	+4.00	
UK Emerging Cos	83.75	89.09	+2.72	
American	145.94	155.25	+2.07	
Japan	69.30	73.62	-0.58	
European	143.99	153.18	+1.75	
Fixed Interest	86.09	91.58	-0.98	
Index Linked Gilt	79.71	84.80	+0.57	
Deposit	85.62	91.08	+0.07	
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	164.56	173.22†	+2.32	0.49
Brdfld Gth Port Inc	74.96	79.11	+1.37	0.60
-do- Inc Port Inc	63.20	66.70†	+1.40	3.50
-do- Wwide Port	64.30	67.96	+1.03	0.10
Shan Utilities	70.55	74.46	+1.65	3.15
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stlg & Intl Inc	622.20	661.91	-3.54	1.44
-do- Accum	702.65	747.50	-3.99	1.44
European Inc	179.50	190.50	-0.82	0.87
Amalgam Inc	164.18	173.82	-0.96	0.34
N America Inc	424.72	451.83	-11.31	0.50
Far East Inc	409.79	424.71	-13.11	
-do- Accum	435.95	461.82	-1.37	
UK Dvnd Inc	209.86	223.26	-5.05	2.46
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
UK Equity Inc #	103.93	111.15†	+2.10	4.36
UK Small Cos	65.66	73.21†	+1.32	0.58
British Growth	70.19	75.05	+1.60	2.73
American Gwth	282.10	301.71	+1.54	
Japan Gwth	72.59	77.52	+0.92	
Greater China	200.40	214.22	+0.71	0.19
Pacific Strategy	172.87	184.87	+2.64	
European Gwth	111.64	119.29	+1.49	0.48
Intl Growth	173.61	185.67	+3.22	
US Index (£)	17.9951	19.9561	+0.32	4.00
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind	94.08	100.61	+2.43	2.17
Monthly Income	41.71	44.39†	+0.56	8.02
BAS Unit Trust Dealing 071 865 0033				
Grd UK Index (£)	14.3173	15.1157†	+3.72	4.75
GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 488 1212				
Small Cos	106.89	113.71	+1.39	1.60
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 8663				
European	591.40	621.10	+4.10	0.49
Gilt & Fixed	126.40	134.10	+1.30	6.15
Growth Equity	427.30	456.50	+16.00	1.26
Income Trust	153.60	164.00	+2.20	4.04
International	218.70	232.90†	+3.90	0.14
Japan Trust	132.50	140.30	+2.50	
Nth American	358.00	383.40†	+6.20	
Pacific	634.80	678.10†	+4.20	0.07
Guardhill	640.70	684.50	+19.50	1.26
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
EMU Trust	109.06	113.22	+0.44	5.46
Global High Inc	103.59	107.57	+0.29	6.15
Corporate Bond	102.12	106.31	+0.70	7.53
Eqty & Bond Inc	109.76	116.70†	+2.00	4.99
European Growth	124.55	132.43	+1.96	
Intl PEP Trust	71.14	75.64	+0.59	
Equity Inc	137.36	146.05	+3.91	3.95
-do- Accum	197.13	209.66	+5.61	3.95
Recovery	380.00	404.00	+16.50	1.78
-do- Accum	449.20	477.50	+19.20	1.76
St Vinc High Inc	129.89	138.82	+0.12	7.46
UK Emerg Cos	203.60	223.10	+4.35	1.99
UK Smlr Cos	428.90	436.50	+29.20	2.10
Glob Prtn Tst	115.05	122.32†	+3.45	1.12
-do- Accum	117.33	124.81	+3.48	1.12
Inc Share Tst	87.70	93.25†	+2.19	9.07
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 0171 220 5050 01904 611110				
Growth	32.74	34.71	+0.77	1.84
Growth Acc	33.45	35.47	+0.79	1.84
Income	31.55	33.45†	+0.62	4.30
Income Acc	33.31	34.99	+0.65	4.30
Accumulation Tst	24.78	26.24	+0.78	2.25
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 330				
High Provider	98.45	101.30†	+0.92	6.54
Model Ptfolio	242.00	254.00	+5.10	2.30
HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT				
Enquiries: 0645 454949 Dealing: 0645 464646				
UK Funds				
Special Sits	378.05	404.51†	+15.36	0.93
Best of British	74.34	79.01	+1.74	2.27
UK Smaller Cos	150.17	161.43	+4.05	1.22
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	315.60	338.10	+7.05	3.25
-do- Accum #	874.24	931.23	+22.02	3.25
High Income	342.81	366.45†	+2.36	4.57
Extra Income #	298.25	318.87†	+7.05	5.61
Pref & Bond	48.18	49.79†	+0.35	8.30
International				
International	331.66	352.56†	+4.54	
Global Bond	56.75	59.73†	+0.30	5.70
Intl Port Tst	102.58	107.38	+1.71	0.31
Global Tech	244.70	261.21	+6.52	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	206.21	220.52	+3.29	0.16
European	612.05	648.50†	+6.78	1.57
European Income #	93.74	99.12	+2.75	3.78
Euro Smlr Cos	180.30	192.93†	+1.56	2.21
European Value	88.41	94.50†	+0.82	1.34
-do- Accum	95.08	101.64	+0.89	1.34
Japan Trust	246.96	262.69	+2.48	
Japan Special Sits	256.09	272.70†	+1.78	..
Pacific Smlr Cos	272.36	290.17†	+8.47	..
North American	308.50	327.38	+3.22	.
American Smaller	178.05	190.50†	+5.23	.
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth #	156.60	167.00	+1.80	4.76
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	120.99	128.69	+3.46	1.77
Capital	208.81	218.65	+4.68	1.21
Dollar	486.90	509.74	+12.54	
Enterprise Gth	431.73	452.07	+17.79	1.20
European	280.52	293.74	+3.38	0.36
Far East	354.36	371.05	+3.98	
Financial	986.89	£10.43†	+18.39	1.94
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	25.60	26.63†	-0.25	7.30
High Yield	112.75	118.07	+3.17	3.80
Income & Growth	163.43	171.14	+4.30	3.24
International	309.14	323.71	+5.60	.
Japanese General	236.21	247.34	+3.39	...
Japan Tech	101.77	106.56	+3.72	.
Ntl Resources	96.83	101.39†	-1.61	
Portfolio	87.56	91.69†	+2.51	1.28
Special Sits	205.65	215.34†	+7.77	0.37
UK Emerging Cos	124.37	130.23	+5.28	0.79
US Smaller Cos	147.31	154.26	+5.19	..
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	638.00	680.90	+16.40	4.98
Capital	716.30	764.50†	+17.90	2.36
Balanced #	114.30	122.00†	+2.20	5.70
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	601.20	638.60†	+8.80	0.55
European Gwth	144.00	153.50	+2.40	.
Japan Gwth	311.10	332.00	+3.10	
Japan Smlr Cos	36.29	38.73	+1.24	
Asian	68.75	73.37	+0.20	0.09
Sing & Malay Gwth	95.64	102.10	+1.70	
Hong Kong Gwth	132.00	140.90†	-0.20	1.27
Global Bond	22.91	24.19	+0.03	5.99
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	167.80	168.40	+4.30	3.36
Trade Index	130.50	133.90	+4.40	2.11
THE FOOTSIE FUND	64.43	64.75	+1.60	2.97
Index Funds-International				
American Index	272.90	274.30	+4.40	1.16
Eurotrack 100	196.20	197.20	+1.60	1.09
Japan Index	87.35	87.79	+1.33	0.21
Tiger Index	231.20	232.40	+3.20	0.39
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	47.78	49.87†	+2.29	0.65
General Funds				
Managed Dist	89.67	93.21	+1.68	1.22
Managed	91.58	95.20	+1.72	1.22
Rupert Child Fnd	100.60	104.60†	+2.70	2.07
UK Growth	71.36	74.18	+2.11	1.88
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc	88.45	91.94†	+1.85	6.52
Gilt & Fixed Int	26.32	27.16†	+0.19	8.31
UK Inc & Gwth	47.30	49.17†	+0.33	3.00
UK Income	372.60	387.30†	+3.28	4.61
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	61.64	63.92†	+1.52	0.11
Amer Smllr Cos	161.10	167.50	+5.30	.
-do- Accum	162.80	169.20	+5.80	.
Europa Gth	227.40	235.90	+2.90	...
-do- Accum	235.50	244.30	+2.90	.
Euro Smaller Cos	43.70	45.43	+0.47	.
French Growth	96.42	100.20†	+0.10	0.33
-do- Accum	104.20	108.30†	+0.20	0.33
H Kong & China	94.82	98.57†	-0.06	1.29
Intl Growth	69.11	71.84	+1.04	0.15
-do- Accum	70.07	72.84	+1.05	0.15
Japan Gth	35.38	36.78	+0.13	
-do- Accum	35.38	36.78	+0.13	.
Japan Smaller Cos	41.99	43.65	+0.59	
Glob Emg Mkts	104.60	108.70	+1.30	
-do- Accum	105.30	109.50	+1.30	
SE Asia	373.10	387.80†	+3.20	0.02
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	55.34	57.01†	+0.21	5.94
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc	102.20	107.60†	+2.90	3.96
Sector Value Gwth	103.10	108.60†	+2.70	2.23
Hy 5 Europe	103.20	108.20	+1.10	1.65
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3030				
World Health	225.70	240.10	+10.60	
Income #	207.21	220.43	+3.53	3.88
UK Growth	82.59	87.85	+2.32	1.95
Intl Growth	90.30	96.05	+1.30	0.44
Ecology	104.81	111.49†	+2.57	0.96
European	183.82	195.42	+0.62	.
Far Eastern	334.30	355.50	+1.80	..

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KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	98.00	101.40†	+0.70	7.68
Gilt Yield	116.60	123.10†	+1.10	6.90
Global Income	238.60	253.80	+2.70	3.41
High Yield	153.70	163.50†	+3.60	5.48
-do- Accum	494.30	525.90†	+11.90	5.48
Smlr Cos Div	62.36	66.34	+1.97	3.13
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	149.70	159.30	+3.40	
Asian Growth	369.80	393.40	+3.00	0.21
-do- Accum	434.60	462.30	+3.50	0.21
North American	105.60	112.30	+0.70	0.23
European Special	126.40	134.50	+2.30	0.09
European	180.10	191.60	+1.80	0.42
-do- Accum	237.50	252.70	+2.50	0.42
Global Eqty Inc	123.00	130.60	+2.50	1.57
Japan	451.90	480.70	+8.80	
Japanese Special	249.20	265.10	+8.00	
Smaller Cos	142.90	152.00	+5.60	1.00
UK Equity Growth	49.92	53.11	+0.95	1.93
UK Index Inc	338.00	339.70	+8.50	3.20
Bircham Tst	106.60	113.60		2.02
-do- Accum	108.10	114.10		2.02
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	293.76	312.51†	+0.65	4.95
Inc & Growth Inc	65.15	63.31	+2.55	3.94
Smaller Cos	84.94	90.36†	+3.58	1.12
LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 01452 371 500 Dlg: 01452 371 623				
Growth Trust	300.60	319.70	+7.70	1.68
High Income	117.20	124.60	+3.40	4.17
International	120.30	127.90	+0.40	0.47
European Trust	88.64	94.29†	+0.72	0.81
Japanese Trust	46.39	49.35	+0.97	
American Trust	117.80	125.30†	+1.70	
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 650 432				
UK Cap	454.20	481.90	+10.50	2.31
UK Inc/Gth	472.30	501.10	+9.50	3.88
UK Income	336.20	356.70	+10.70	3.72
UK Sm Cos	300.60	321.50	+10.50	1.58
Euro Gwth	165.20	175.10	+2.00	0.46
N Amer Gwth	124.30	131.90	+5.00	
Japan Growth	72.39	76.81	+1.19	.
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 395				
Equity Dist	576.70	613.50†	+15.40	2.54
-do- Accum	£11.74	£12.49†	+31.00	2.55
Equity Income #	106.70	113.50	+2.40	4.41
UK Tactical Allocn	65.87	69.95†	+1.99	3.90
European	142.80	152.00	+1.50	1.09
Far Eastern	250.80	266.80	+3.50	
Fixed Interest	52.81	56.27†	+0.51	7.25
Gilt	87.58	93.30†	+0.80	6.65
Global Growth	88.02	93.69	+1.42	0.25
Intl Bond	55.26	58.57	+0.18	5.33
Japanese	79.01	84.05	+0.96	
North American	206.40	219.60	+3.30	0.64
Pacific Growth	129.30	137.60†	+1.70	0.07
UK Index	75.91	79.71†	+2.02	2.91
UK Recovery	113.80	121.10†	+2.30	1.89
UK Smaller Cos	159.20	169.40	+5.00	1.08
US Index	81.40	85.91	+1.45	1.30
European Index	91.85	96.94	+0.91	1.74
Japan Index	44.67	47.14	+0.70	
Worldwide	99.92	106.30	+2.00	1.39
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 633				
Growth	56.61	60.54	+1.35	2.03
Income	65.02	69.53	+1.49	2.90
Far East	61.89	66.19†	+1.30	..
North American	136.90	146.10†	+2.00	
Global	117.60	125.70†	+1.90	0.17
European	99.56	106.20†	+1.40	0.61
Japan	116.30	124.30	+2.50	.
Intl Currency Bd	61.30	64.90†	+0.05	4.30
SE Asia	119.70	127.40†	+0.20	
UK Cap Growth	103.90	111.10†	+2.60	1.58
Recovery Trust	89.11	94.79	+2.58	1.17
Managed	79.14	84.19†	+1.47	0.58
Cash	50.46	50.46	+0.03	4.59
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	403.30	429.10	+13.80	2.43
-do- Accum	940.30	1000.1	+31.90	2.43
Contl Euro Gth	80.67	84.92	+1.25	0.52
-do- Accum	86.82	91.39	+1.35	0.52
Extra Inc	285.90	304.20	+3.56	4.00
-do- Accum	768.60	817.70	+9.90	4.00
FTSE 100 Inc	119.70	127.40	+2.90	2.54
FTSE 100 Acc	121.90	129.70	+3.00	2.54
German Gth	137.95	145.10		
-do- Accum	144.60	152.50	+0.10	
Growth Port	661.30	703.60	+5.20	
-do- Accum	681.00	724.50	+5.40	
High Interest Inc	95.18	99.64†	-0.90	7.91
High Interest Acc	97.75	101.30	-1.00	7.91
Hi Reserve Inc #	107.10	114.00	-1.70	6.43
Hi Reserve Acc #	113.30	120.60	-1.90	6.43
Income	545.80	580.70†	+10.10	3.35
-do- Accum	£15.37	£16.36	+63.00	3.35
Income Port	559.30	595.00	+10.80	4.37
-do- Accum	613.80	653.00	+11.70	4.37
Japan Growth	116.70	124.70	+1.20	
-do- Accum	117.10	124.60	-1.30	
Master Trust	68.75	73.14	+1.24	1.18
-do- Accum	78.11	83.10	+1.42	1.18
N American Gen	240.60	256.00	+5.70	0.03
-do- Accum	278.30	296.10	+6.70	0.03
NAm Sm Co Rec	201.50	214.40	+5.50	.
-do- Accum	205.70	218.90	+5.80	.
Pacific Basin	294.50	313.30	+3.50	.
-do- Accum	313.70	333.80	+3.80	.
Small Cos Rec	506.10	532.80	+15.00	1.58
-do- Accum	689.30	725.60	+20.30	1.58
UK Eq Gth	162.20	172.60†	+4.00	2.75
UK Eq Inc	127.30	135.40†	+3.20	4.69
UK Growth	104.30	111.00	+3.70	1.96
-do- Accum	129.50	137.80	+4.60	1.96
Worldwide Gth	371.10	394.80	+4.90	.
-do- Accum	548.40	583.50	+7.30	.
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
American	86.63	92.71	+1.23	0.49
General	106.90	114.69	+2.75	2.30
Income	72.83	78.14†	+1.56	5.10
International	77.18	82.61	+0.73	0.40
Japan	64.48	69.18	-0.95	
Tst of Inv Trusts	76.96	82.57†	+1.45	1.30
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Secs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	527.30	567.00	+9.32	0.36
-do- Accum	659.00	696.10	+11.60	0.36
Amer Recovery	576.50	609.70	+9.20	0.32
-do- Accum	664.20	702.50	+10.50	0.32
Amer Smllr Cos	167.60	177.20	+5.60	
-do- Accum	171.30	181.10	+5.80	
Australasian	199.00	210.40	+0.20	2.02
-do- Accum	248.00	262.20	+0.20	2.02
Capital	993.10	1050.20	+24.40	2.76
-do- Accum	1170.20	1237.40	+28.80	2.76
Charifund	774.00	782.70	+22.60	5.62
-do- Accum	3842.90	3881.40	+112.30	5.62
Commodity	544.00	575.30	+29.10	0.19
-do- Accum	802.20	848.30	+42.90	0.19
Compound Gth	1111.80	1175.70	+24.60	2.86
-do- Accum	1196.20	1264.90	+26.40	2.86
Corporate Bond	24.57	24.66†	+0.27	7.90
Dividend	46.30	49.00	+1.40	4.29
-do- Accum	201.80	213.50	+6.00	4.29
Equity Income	361.30	382.10	+9.80	4.83
-do- Accum	489.30	517.60	+13.40	4.83
Euro & General	645.50	682.60	+11.40	0.83
-do- Accum	823.30	870.60	+14.60	0.83
Euro Dividend	83.20	88.00	+1.80	3.48
-do- Accum	103.30	109.30	+2.20	3.48
Extra Yield	465.60	492.40†	+14.20	4.87
-do- Accum	1533.40	1621.80†	+46.70	4.87
Far Eastern	405.70	429.00	+5.70	1.04
-do- Accum	541.20	572.30	+7.60	1.04
Fund of Inv Tsts	716.00	757.20	+17.60	1.81
-do- Accum	1360.30	1438.70	+33.90	1.81
General	70.40	74.50	+1.80	3.61
-do- Accum	204.70	216.70	+5.20	3.61
Gilt Income	60.44	60.52	+0.70	7.20
-do- Accum	177.12	177.35	+2.06	7.20
Gold	86.00	90.90	-2.80	0.08
-do- Accum	102.20	108.00	-3.30	0.08
High Income	33.50	35.40	+0.80	4.52
-do- Accum	139.90	148.20	+3.70	4.52
Intl Growth	95.30	100.80	+1.30	0.65
-do- Accum	167.70	177.50	+2.30	0.65
International Inc	112.60	119.10†	+0.10	4.42
-do- Accum	176.30	186.60†	+2.70	4.42
Japan & Gen	44.40	46.90	+0.90	.
-do- Accum	47.60	50.30	+1.00	..
Japan Smlr Cos	155.90	164.80	+2.30	
-do- Accum	156.90	165.90	+2.30	..
Managed Gwth	27.90	29.40	+0.60	1.62
Managed Income	30.50	32.00†	+0.70	4.08
Midland	66.00	69.80†	+1.80	3.19
-do- Accum	229.00	242.40†	+8.90	3.19
Pension Ex	1096.90	1124.30	+29.10	4.17
Recovery	50.60	53.50	+1.40	2.55
-do- Accum	85.10	90.10	+2.40	2.55
Second General	79.00	83.50	+1.70	3.75
-do- Accum	211.50	223.80	+4.70	3.75
Smaller Cos	74.50	78.80	+1.40	3.12
-do- Accum	152.50	161.40	+2.80	3.12
Treasury	25.17	25.21†	+0.03	5.95
Trustee	44.30	46.80†	+0.20	4.67
-do- Accum	188.40	199.30†	+4.10	4.67
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	100.52	106.93	+1.37	1.54
Intl Bond	66.91	70.29	+0.27	5.28
Intl Equity Growth	88.04	93.58	+1.15	0.64
N Amer Growth	133.50	141.83†	+2.07	0.68
Special Sits Growth	28.63	28.32†	-0.61	1.89
UK Growth	449.33	478.01†	+10.47	2.54
-do- Accum	609.85	648.77	+14.22	2.54
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1509.80	1530.70	+16.50	2.90
Income #	1042.20	1058.50	+8.90	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	161.30	165.60†		3.65
For Manulife see Canada Life				
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
M & S Inv Ptflio	178.00	183.50	+3.60	2.27
-do- Accum	208.90	215.40	+4.30	2.27
UK Sel Ptflio	157.70	162.60	+4.10	2.49
-do- Accum	187.40	193.20	+4.90	2.49
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	72.97	77.63†	+1.30	3.89
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	84.04	89.21†	+1.70	3.76
European	104.70	111.10	-0.80	0.74
Income #	84.98	90.21	+2.36	4.30
Nth American	93.25	98.99	+2.55	0.31
Far East	191.30	203.10	+1.20	0.03
Japan	66.15	70.22†	+0.69	
Emrging Mkts	93.36	99.85	+1.54	
Intl Growth	133.90	142.10†	+1.00	0.71
UK Growth	122.50	130.00	+3.80	2.36
UK Smlr Co	62.01	65.83	+2.18	1.41
Asian Opps Fd	42.38	45.33	+0.10	0.29
Glob Gwth PEP	63.00	66.90	+1.52	1.01
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	106.70	113.60	+3.01	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	468.82	498.71†	+10.07	4.43
Global Inc	74.85	79.63†	+0.67	3.92
Brit Leaders	401.06	426.66†	+12.77	3.37
Intl Leaders	232.78	247.64†	+3.97	1.49
P&M Ldg Bal Grth	74.74	77.65†	+1.13	0.61
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	260.80	275.30	+3.50	
-do- Accum	278.90	294.40	+3.70	
American Opps	128.50	137.10	+3.00	.
-do- Accum	130.10	138.80	+3.10	
British Blue Chip	95.04	100.70†	+2.07	2.39
-do- Accum	121.00	128.20†	+2.80	2.39
Cash	101.20	101.20	+0.10	
-do- Accum *	145.40	145.40	+0.10	
Emerging Mkts	127.80	137.40	+3.00	0.10
-do- Accum	128.60	138.30	+3.00	0.10
European Growth	311.80	330.00	+3.10	0.14
-do- Accum	338.30	358.10	+3.40	0.14
European Income	94.72	99.62	+0.02	2.88
-do- Accum	132.70	139.70		2.88
General	606.80	644.80†	+13.80	1.92
-do- Accum	1233.00	1310.00†	+27.00	1.92
Global Bond	132.90	139.60†	+0.50	6.07
-do- Accum	171.20	179.80†	+0.70	6.07
Gold & General	259.40	278.70	-4.20	0.32
-do- Accum	267.80	287.70	-4.40	0.32
Gnet Securities	92.60	95.49	+0.81	6.27
-do- Accum	189.30	195.10	+1.60	6.27
High Yield Bd	98.12	100.60†	+0.80	7.52
-do- Accum	101.20	103.80†	-0.90	7.52
Income	184.00	195.10	+3.90	3.97
-do- Accum	301.10	319.40	+6.70	3.97
Inc Portfolio #	110.70	117.10†	+1.30	4.72
-do- Accum #	118.40	125.30†	+1.40	4.72
Intl Opps	587.20	626.30	+12.90	0.14
-do- Accum	790.10	842.80	+17.40	0.14
Japan	188.40	199.50	+0.70	
-do- Accum	193.50	204.70	+0.60	
New Europe	230.10	245.40	+7.70	0.82
-do- Accum	239.40	255.40	+8.10	0.82
Pacific	130.70	139.40	+1.10	0.73
-do- Accum	140.30	149.70	+1.20	0.73
Recovery	413.00	440.50	+15.00	0.59
-do- Accum	535.50	571.20	+10.50	0.59
UK Smaller Cos	67.20	71.68†	+1.37	0.72
-do- Accum	76.84	81.96†	+1.56	0.72
Portfolio	94.42	100.00†	+1.40	2.31
-do- Accum	115.30	122.20†	+1.80	2.31
Managed Gth	121.50	127.10	+2.50	1.01
Managed Inc	118.60	123.00	+1.40	2.94
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	147.80	157.23	+0.88	0.15
Portfolio	79.72	84.81	+1.54	1.31
UK Income Inc	90.02	95.74†	+1.74	4.54
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	68.59	71.82†	+1.16	2.69
-do- Accum	75.11	78.64†	+1.27	2.69
British Tst	103.90	108.80	+3.40	2.05
-do- Accum	124.30	130.10	+4.10	2.05
Corp Bond Inc	97.66	101.20	+0.50	6.92
-do- Accum	97.66	101.20	+0.50	6.92
Extra High Inc	70.79	74.13†	+1.52	6.43
-do- Accum	147.20	154.10†	+3.30	6.43
FT SE 100 Acc	67.04	70.19	+1.75	2.77
FT-SE 100 Dist	64.21	67.24	+1.68	2.77
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.06	57.29	+0.42	6.77
-do- Accum	130.60	133.60	+1.00	6.77
High Yield	238.80	250.10	+5.00	5.98
-do- Accum	630.60	660.20	+13.00	5.98
Income	313.80	329.10	+10.50	4.47
-do- Accum	741.30	776.10	+24.10	4.47
Money Market UT	49.63	49.63	+0.05	4.78
-do- Accum	81.44	81.44	+0.08	4.78
Monthly Income	92.84	97.21†	+1.80	4.80
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	129.10	137.30	+3.30	1.43
European Growth	132.51	140.50	+1.00	0.01
Gilt & Fixed	94.67	100.40	+0.75	5.53
Income	100.20	106.80	+2.30	2.43
Japan Growth	57.21	60.64	+1.03	
Managed	82.17	87.41	+1.41	2.01
Money Market	92.72	98.28	+0.12	4.09
North American	109.30	115.90	+2.00	0.39
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	117.00	124.50	+3.00	1.42
European Growth	124.50	132.00	+0.90	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	89.59	95.03	+0.68	5.53
Income	98.33	104.50	+2.20	2.48
Japan Growth	56.80	60.31	+1.02	
Managed	78.52	83.53	+1.35	1.99
Money Market	85.57	90.71	+0.12	4.05
North American	98.82	104.70	+1.80	0.47
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	116.60	124.00	+3.00	1.42
European Growth	121.80	129.10	+0.90	.
Gilt & Fixed Int	81.98	86.96	+0.64	5.68
Income	96.26	102.40	+2.20	2.50
Japan Growth	58.22	61.71	+1.05	.
Managed	81.38	86.57	+1.39	2.00
Money Market	79.06	83.80	+0.08	4.15
North American	110.60	117.30	+2.10	0.36
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
International (US$)	14.98	15.87		.
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	464.40	493.40†	-11.60	
European Gth Inc	674.20	718.70	+15.70	.
-do- Accum	691.50	736.50	+15.90	
Intl Gwth	239.90	255.00	+5.60	
UK Equity Inc	218.10	231.80	+4.30	3.48
Do. Accum	292.70	311.10	+5.80	3.48
UK Ind Trdg Inc	192.30	205.10†	+5.00	2.44
-do- Accum	234.30	249.90†	+6.10	2.44
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	270.30	286.20	+4.20	0.81
Japan Tracker	62.36	66.75	+1.31	..
Asian Tracker	244.00	262.50	+0.70	0.16
Managed Inc	191.40	204.20	+3.80	2.13
Deposit Inc	99.85	99.85†	+0.08	5.42
Europa	321.00	344.80†	+3.60	
Genesis	211.20	226.10	+7.10	1.44
High Income	21.36	22.64	+0.23	10.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
Acumen	109.60	111.90†	+1.60	2.09
Acumen Inc	100.40	102.50†	+1.40	2.09
Acumen Reserve	90.77	91.62†	+0.62	7.95
-do- Inc	72.09	72.81†	+0.65	7.95
American Growth	66.69	68.90	+0.23	
Cash Income	49.95	49.95	+0.03	5.35
Equity Income #	185.20	187.90†	+2.10	4.59
European	82.82	84.29	+1.35	0.15
Smaller Cos	91.53	95.92	+2.79	0.96
W'wide Eqty	79.16	80.97	+1.09	
Global Bond	46.27	46.78	+0.18	6.05
UK Growth	112.70	115.50†	+2.30	1.85
Pacific Growth	131.20	135.60	+0.50	0.51
Japan Growth	111.60	113.50	+0.80	
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	147.31	156.71	+3.22	2.30
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
0161 237 5322				
UK Growth	90.02	95.77	+2.59	2.12
UK Income	125.74	134.83	+3.41	3.82
Higher Income	240.34	256.68	+7.53	4.87
Smaller Cos	105.03	111.73	+3.09	1.63
International	113.58	120.64†	+1.59	1.40
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
Americas Dist	134.60	143.20	+3.40	0.10
European Dist	145.40	154.70	+1.40	0.10
Far East Dist	214.80	228.50	+1.10	0.41
Global Care Dist	88.52	94.62	+1.94	0.34
Oseas Dist	1240.10	1319.20†	+13.30	0.09
-do- Accum	1609.50	1712.70	+17.60	0.09
UK Dist	424.30	451.40	+12.80	2.32
-do- Accum	850.80	904.20	+25.50	2.32
UK Extra Inc Dist	92.95	98.46	+2.32	3.10
Wwide Dist	129.20	137.40†	+2.40	
Wwide Inc Dist	57.35	59.56†	+1.18	1.61
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg 01277 690 260 Admin Enq 01277 690 396				
Europe Inc	77.12	81.39†	+0.91	0.52
Fund of Funds Inc	70.75	74.61	+1.34	1.83
North America Inc	65.22	69.85	+1.07	
UK Equity Gth Inc	70.17	74.06	+1.74	2.50
-do- Accum	74.53	78.65	+1.85	2.50
UK General Inc	68.46	72.35†	+1.73	2.64
UK Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	47.59	50.09†	+0.41	6.89
UK Income Inc	66.52	70.32	+1.73	3.97
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0500 550 000 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	54.69	58.19	+0.41	
-do- Accum	55.11	58.63	+0.42	
Bond	126.55	134.62	+1.17	6.17
Cash Income	50.34	50.94	+0.04	5.32
-do- Accum	67.70	67.70	+0.05	5.52
Distributor	104.33	110.67†	+1.34	2.67
European	54.65	58.14	+0.93	
Foundation	108.45	115.37	+1.32	2.47
General	[illegible]	[illegible]	+3.33	1.56
Global	350.13	372.52	+5.32	0.34
Growth Inc	143.57	152.69†	+3.59	2.43
Growth Acc	149.62	159.17†	+3.07	2.43
Higher Income Inc	30.75	32.79†	+0.51	4.67
-do- Accum	37.53	39.69†	+0.51	4.67
Income	260.66	277.30†	+7.82	3.41
Intrepid	120.75	128.45		3.77
Japan	29.93	30.78	+0.07	
Oriental Inc	125.96	133.99	+1.45	0.49
-do- Accum	128.46	136.65	+1.48	0.49
Pers Intl Gwth	37.50	39.87†	-0.50	
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
High Income #	48.05	50.65	-0.65	6.89
Managed	114.40	121.10	-2.20	2.16
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	145.27	153.02†	+2.64	1.09
UK Equity	166.68	175.45	+4.16	2.71
UK Equity Income	151.90	159.89	+3.86	3.13
UK Smaller Cos	141.05	148.47	+5.21	1.38
UK Equity Growth	156.85	165.11†	+4.31	1.58
UK Index Trckg	162.98	177.87	+4.39	2.22
Intl Index Trckg	176.55	185.87	+2.43	0.91
International	287.30	302.42†	+3.35	0.51
European	252.41	265.70	+3.56	0.32
Pan European	165.11	173.80	+2.68	1.29
Nth American	238.03	250.56	+3.47	0.17
N Amer Smlr Cos	249.44	262.57	+2.73	
Japanese	102.87	108.29	+1.19	
Pacific	267.16	281.22	+2.46	0.39
South East Asian	302.95	318.91†	+2.05	0.65
Intl Bond	139.50	147.16	+0.51	4.20
Gilt & Convertible	107.03	112.66	+1.07	6.78
Property	82.34	87.21	+1.11	5.74
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	324.20	348.20	+7.30	
-do- Accum	343.00	368.60	+7.70	
Japan Inc	121.50	129.70	+1.70	
Nth American Inc	132.60	141.50	+3.80	0.45
Worldwide Inc	180.10	193.30	+2.50	0.25
Hong Kong Inc	170.30	182.90	-1.90	1.17
Swiss Equities Inc	92.10	98.34†	+2.02	
Wwide Bond Inc	66.83	70.70†	+0.52	5.37
Emrgng Asia Inc	237.10	257.50	-4.00	
-do- Accum	238.00	258.40	+4.00	
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.46	50.46	+0.04	5.59
Thailand Inc	183.10	199.80	-1.90	1.18
New Zealand Inc	103.40	111.30	-1.00	2.67
Int Mngd PEP Inc	71.62	76.71†	+1.04	1.39
Latin Am Cmp Inc	66.61	71.66	+2.76	
UK All Sh Mkt Inc	69.62	70.72†	+1.95	2.73
Broker Unit Trusts				
Global Trustees	91.97	98.36	+1.14	
Global Portfolio	81.64	87.15	+0.17	
Global Opps	72.69	77.74	+1.29	
Marsh Global Gth	71.97	76.32	+1.16	
CAM Brit Gwth Inc	110.58	118.60†	+1.80	
Temple Equity Inc	48.87	53.14	+1.15	3.01
Hartley Growth	109.40	116.40	+3.30	0.25
Intl Growth Inc	93.08	99.55	+1.32	1.28
IPS Portfolio Inc	95.55	101.70	+0.20	
Premier Perfmc Inc	72.52	77.62	+0.65	1.47
Roxburgh Strat Gth	81.85	87.54	+0.82	0.32
States Gwth	140.40	149.40	+2.80	
International Strat	89.45	95.67	+1.53	
UFC Ind-Act Gth	65.09	69.62	+1.13	
Chartfield Port of Fds	57.55	62.36	+0.95	
Chartfield Sec	126.90	138.90	+3.60	
Lowes Intl Growth	54.56	57.43	+1.00	
PM UT MGRS LTD				
0171 588 3963				
Equity Gth	247.20	263.00†	+12.30	1.50
European Gth	131.30	139.20†	+0.80	0.64
Income & Gth #	161.20	171.50†	+5.60	2.86
Japan Gth	124.70	132.70†	+1.90	
Nth Amer Gth	214.10	227.80†	+2.70	
Overseas Gth	127.20	135.30†	+1.00	
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	281.40	299.30	+7.50	2.40
-do- Accum	608.10	646.90	+16.40	2.40
Growth	186.50	196.20	+4.80	2.61
Income	270.90	288.10†	+6.70	3.46
Intl Equity	299.80	318.90	+2.80	0.62
-do- Accum	333.80	355.10	+3.20	0.62
UK Income	75.25	80.05	+2.00	3.03
UK Intl 25	94.37	100.30	+2.03	1.91
New Europe	100.90	107.30	+0.50	0.37
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	710.76	759.87	+12.75	0.43
-do- Accum	713.65	762.95	+12.80	0.43
Income	427.46	457.18†	+9.28	3.19
Wwide Recovery	477.69	510.90	+4.92	0.41
Amer Growth Inc	310.96	331.46	+6.94	0.01
-do- Accum	310.96	331.46	+6.94	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	303.17	324.25	+6.08	0.01
Far Estn Gth Inc	330.59	353.58	+4.98	0.63
-do- Accum	331.80	354.87	+5.00	0.63
Euro Gwth Inc	180.99	193.26	+1.64	0.18
-do- Accum	181.62	193.93	+1.64	0.18
UK Growth Inc	113.12	120.99†	+3.36	2.65
-do- Accum	121.50	129.95	+3.55	2.65
High Income	112.87	120.67	+2.19	3.79
Jap Gwth Inc	232.16	248.16†	+4.56	0.01
-do- Accum	232.16	248.16	+4.56	0.01
PEP Growth	148.18	158.45	+2.70	0.83
Asian Sh Mkts Inc	147.53	157.79	+0.77	0.05
-do- Accum	147.88	158.16	+0.77	0.05
Amer Smlr Co Inc	201.97	216.02	+2.46	0.01
-do- Accum	201.97	216.02	+2.46	0.01
Global Bond	57.43	60.47†	+0.07	5.63
UK Smaller Cos Inc	108.14	115.66	+2.59	1.45
-do- Accum	113.78	121.70	+2.73	1.45
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0191 201 3927				
American	137.33	145.90	+2.91	
European	93.56	99.53	+0.86	
Global	73.76	78.47	+0.99	...
Pacific	68.86	71.78†	+1.23	...
UK Inc & Gth	78.67	83.67†	+1.61	2.01
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq. 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 01277 690 430				
Fund of Funds	196.39	209.94	+3.05	0.57
Emerg Mkts	50.82	53.78	+1.43	0.97
High Income #	53.92	57.06†	+0.26	5.70
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	171.59	182.55	+3.84	1.08
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 262 443				
American Income	123.30	131.10	+2.00	2.98
Conv & Gilt	123.90	131.30	+2.60	5.43
European Income	90.41	91.92†	0.23	1.36
Extra Income	182.50	194.10†	+2.90	4.81
-do- Accum	233.00	247.80	+3.70	4.81
Far East	466.30	496.10†	+9.30	0.12
-do- Accum	476.10	506.50	+9.70	0.12
Global Income	29.20	31.47	+0.39	5.00
High Income	137.50	146.20†	0.10	4.36
-do- Accum	173.40	184.50	+3.70	4.36
International	228.00	242.60†	+4.30	0.56
-do- Accum	236.70	251.80	+4.30	0.56
Pref & Fxd Int	42.18	44.98†	1.53	7.12
Recovery	[illegible]	[illegible]	+1.97	2.18
Special Sits	145.20	154.50	+4.70	1.49
-do- Accum	159.90	170.10	+5.20	1.49
Technology	745.30	792.90	+30.50	
UK Blue Chip	86.74	92.27	+1.67	2.94
-do- Accum	99.87	106.00	+1.80	2.94
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0181 478 3377 Client Svc 0171 911 4490				
Managed Tst	46.13	47.80†	+0.37	1.72
Cash Haven Inc	101.61	102.11	+0.07	5.03
Cash Haven Acc	116.82	117.39	+0.09	5.03
Dist Trust Inc	106.07	109.92†	+1.81	6.31
Dist Trust Acc	117.42	121.68†	+1.99	6.31
Global Growth	108.54	115.47	+2.24	1.37
Equity Inc	93.99	99.99	+2.40	4.37
Equity	872.91	928.63†	+24.31	2.35
European	267.87	277.59	+2.64	0.77
High Income	93.65	99.63†	+1.67	5.25
Intl Grth	228.00	242.56	+3.16	0.77
Intl Sm Co	98.87	105.18†	+1.58	0.64
Japanese	241.04	249.79†	+5.48	
Nth Amer	237.45	246.04	+3.72	1.26
Pacific Mkts	126.98	131.59	+0.40	0.64
Premier Inc	47.69	49.62†	+0.41	6.85
Sm Cos	113.27	121.03	+3.49	1.67
Spec Sits	129.38	137.64	+3.33	2.56
UK Growth	147.92	157.36	+3.94	2.26
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	344.00	364.90†	+8.60	3.14
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000				
FA America (Inc)	659.49	700.67	+8.14	0.30
FA America (Acc)	771.27	819.44	+9.53	0.30
FA UK Equity Inc	186.95	199.52	+5.51	3.26
FA Japan	262.94	279.72	+3.25	
FA Major UK Cos	115.13	122.45	+2.54	1.86
FA Smllr UK Cos	373.61	406.29†	+12.15	0.85
FA European	411.05	436.35	+0.38	0.30
FA Amer Smllr Cos	59.36	63.37	+0.59	
FA Asia	60.08	64.51	+0.49	.
FA Jap Smllr Cos	46.80	49.81	+0.63	
RAM Personal Pension				
UK Major Cos	120.56	126.90	+2.62	.
UK Smllr Cos	109.92	115.70	+3.45	.
UK Income	119.78	126.08	+3.48	
America	132.96	139.95	+1.62	
Japanese	58.16	61.21	+0.71	.
European	132.80	139.57	+0.12	..
Gilt	96.30	101.36	+1.05	.
Deposit	88.52	93.18	+0.07	.
Managed	117.28	123.44	+3.32	
RAM FSAVC Scheme				
UK Major Cos	117.27	123.37	+2.55	.
Int Smaller Cos	107.18	112.81	+3.36	
UK Income	116.67	122.80	+3.40	..
America	129.29	135.99	+1.58	
Japanese	56.51	59.48	+0.68	..
European	128.99	135.77	+0.12	.
Gilt	94.07	99.02	+1.00	.
Deposit	84.71	89.17	+0.07	.
Managed	110.13	115.92	+1.93	
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD				
Prices: 01733 282 828 Gen Enq: 01733 390 000				
United States	117.60	125.10	+1.70	0.25
Pacific Basin	87.66	94.02	+0.72	0.24
High Inc Dist	155.40	166.10†	+3.90	4.11
Ryl Life Intl Cmy	63.82	67.61†	+0.61	4.08
Ryl Life Intl Gwth	81.50	86.89	+0.79	0.12
Ryl Life Intl Spec	75.44	80.25	+1.33	
UK Emerging Cos	157.30	170.00	+6.20	0.91
UK Index Trckg	196.70	203.50	+2.40	3.14
European	162.60	175.70	+0.19	0.27
Managed	183.30	197.00	+3.80	1.00
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 784 400				
American Growth	194.70	207.10	+4.40	1.55
European Growth	138.80	147.00	+0.90	2.23
Far East Growth	164.60	175.20	+2.60	1.73
Japan Growth	143.60	152.60†	+2.30	
Special Sits	249.50	265.40†	+9.70	1.12
UK Growth	98.90	105.20	+2.70	1.86
Triton General	298.20	317.30†	+5.40	0.93
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	188.30	199.30	+2.30	0.36
Gt Euro Prog Inc	404.40	427.90	+4.40	0.41
-do- Accum	631.80	668.60	+6.80	0.41
Growth Inc	157.20	166.30	+3.70	0.17
-do- Accum	161.20	170.60	+3.80	0.17
International Inc	411.10	435.00	+8.10	0.17
-do- Accum	566.70	599.70	+11.20	0.17
Nth Am & Intl Inc	413.60	437.90	+8.40	0.66
UK Gen Prog Inc	255.30	270.20	+14.80	1.13
-do- Accum	292.40	309.40	+4.30	1.13
UK High Inc Inc	148.90	157.60	+3.40	4.59
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
American Gwth	80.12	85.22	+2.59	
Asian Gwth	131.42	139.80†	+0.29	0.75
European Gwth	89.76	95.49	+0.07	1.00
Global Bd	62.69	66.24†	+0.14	5.00
Global Eq	68.69	73.06	+1.26	0.50
Japan Sm Cos	60.08	63.91†	+0.96	
UK Gwth	88.85	94.52	+1.74	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
01708 766 966				
Amer Inc & Gwth #	85.67	95.39†	+0.31	3.18
Amer Smllr Cos	151.67	161.30	+2.20	.
Asian Smaller Cos	49.08	52.21	+1.14	
Capital Portfolio	150.80	160.40†	+0.10	1.95
Cash	132.70	132.70†	+0.10	5.41
China Dragon	66.22	70.45	+0.33	1.51
Commodity	169.30	180.10	+3.50	.
Eastern Discovery	119.40	127.00	+2.80	.
Emerging Mkts	40.29	42.86	+0.63	
Energy Inds	161.50	171.80	+0.80	
European Gwth	233.20	248.10	+0.10	0.30
Euro Inc & Gwth #	94.31	100.30	+0.10	7.68
Euro Smllr Cos	71.69	76.27	+0.53	0.10
Extra Income #	56.57	58.44	+0.85	5.99
Financial Secs	272.30	289.70	+4.20	0.88
High Income #	46.10	48.10†	+0.61	7.78
Gold & Exploration	133.70	142.20	+10.70	
High Return #	258.50	275.00	+5.00	3.85
High Yield #	259.70	276.30†	+5.00	3.02
Income #	134.00	142.60	+2.60	3.89
Intl Bond	170.70	180.30†	+0.70	5.86
ITU	242.30	257.70†	+5.30	0.73
Japan Growth	192.30	204.60	+3.90	
Japan Smaller	195.40	207.90	+4.60	
Korea	65.59	69.78	+2.71	
Masterfund	66.72	67.06	+1.18	0.84
Southern Africa	65.02	69.17	+0.14	1.18
Scotbits	407.10	433.10	+5.90	1.15
Scotshares #	353.80	376.40	+7.30	1.91
Scotyields #	280.10	298.00	+5.70	2.79
Select Intl	160.70	171.00	+2.40	0.55
Smaller Cos Inc #	266.50	283.50†	+7.20	3.33
SE Asia	59.29	63.07	+0.49	0.19
Special Situation	158.30	168.40	+3.30	1.68
UK Equity #	291.90	310.50	+5.40	2.34
UK Growth	79.33	84.39†	+0.21	1.91
UK & O'seas	201.50	214.40	+3.00	1.05
UK Smllr Cos Gwth	60.17	64.01	+1.53	1.25
US Growth	208.90	222.20	+3.30	
Univ Growth	163.90	174.40†	+2.40	0.47
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Clnt: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	333.63	353.27	+1.03	0.93
-do- Accum	367.05	388.65	+1.13	0.93
European Gwth	91.60	97.04	+0.81	0.83
Euro Smllr Cos	110.02	116.87	+0.89	0.24
Far Eastern Gth	119.25	127.20	+1.43	.
-do- Accum	121.56	129.66	+1.45	.
Gilt & Fixed Int #	50.88	53.61†	+0.54	7.76
Global Bond #	52.99	54.76	+0.33	6.89
-do- Accum #	61.39	63.44	+0.38	6.80
Global Emer Mkts	59.41	63.37†	+1.05	
-do- Accum	59.50	63.46†	+1.06	
Income #	414.32	441.94†	+10.79	4.97
-do- Accum #	£13.72	£14.64†	+35.76	4.97
Japan Smllr Cos	475.62	507.32	+12.55	
-do- Accum	476.57	508.33	+12.57	
Japan Enterprise	73.80	78.71†	+0.90	.
Pacific Gwth	168.21	179.42	+2.15	0.39
-do- Accum	174.24	185.86	+2.23	0.39
Portfolio	96.07	102.47	+1.93	1.76
-do- Accum	106.05	113.11	+2.12	1.76
Seoul	53.67	57.24	+2.58	
-do- Accum	53.67	57.24	+2.58	
Smaller Cos	293.50	313.06	+9.54	0.92
Strategic Inc	102.61	109.29	+1.94	1.72
Strategic Acc	102.61	109.29	+1.94	1.72
Tokyo	137.23	146.37†	+2.86	
-do- Accum	138.61	147.85†	+2.89	
UK Enterprise	338.84	361.42	+8.99	1.95
-do- Accum	413.75	441.33	+10.97	1.95
UK Equity	303.23	323.56	+9.27	2.37
-do- Accum	603.05	643.26	+18.42	2.37
US Smllr Cos	232.56	248.06	+3.65	
-do- Accum	232.56	248.06	+3.65	.
Institutional Funds				
European	282.36	303.39	+1.85	1.28
-do- Accum	328.45	340.85	+2.08	1.28
Euro Smllr Cos	36.39	37.86	+0.16	1.20
-do- Accum	39.10	40.67	+0.17	1.20
Global Equity Inc	94.29	98.21†	+0.90	0.89
Japan Smllr Cos	41.04	42.75	+1.06	0.07
-do- Accum	41.40	43.12	+1.08	0.07
Mngd Balanced	226.66	236.10†	+4.21	2.79
-do- Accum	264.28	275.28†	+4.91	2.78
Overseas Equity	230.40	239.99	+2.08	1.08
-do- Accum	240.64	250.65	+2.14	1.08
Oseas Smllr Cos	152.95	159.32	+2.28	0.95
-do- Accum	161.18	167.89	+2.41	0.95
Pacific	300.44	313.00†	+1.47	1.01
-do- Accum	333.12	347.00†	+2.76	1.01
Recovery	£23.84	£24.84	+78.64	2.79
-do- Accum	£25.88	£26.96	+85.34	2.79
UK Index	185.03	192.73	+3.85	3.25
-do- Accum	232.77	242.47	+4.84	3.25
UK Small Cos	139.34	145.14	+4.22	2.45
-do- Accum	152.96	159.33	+4.63	2.45
US Smllr Cos	67.32	70.12†	+1.31	0.59
-do- Accum	68.94	71.81†	+1.43	0.59
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	59.60	63.03	+1.30	3.33
Equity Trust	75.29	79.62	+1.41	2.92
Equity Strategy	90.09	95.27	+2.35	1.21
European Opps	106.79	112.93	+0.63	0.49
UK Smaller Cos	79.21	83.76	+2.52	1.09
Macintosh Inc	98.89	101.45	+0.07	6.14
Japanese	87.39	92.42	+1.42	
Asia Pacific	141.13	149.24	+1.47	0.67
American	135.16	142.93	+2.00	0.22
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	32.60	32.60	+0.02	5.407
UK General Inc	63.26	67.37	+1.64	3.20
-do- Accum	83.14	88.53	+2.15	3.20
Intl Income	309.00	329.30	+3.70	1.86
-do- Accum	541.50	577.00	+6.30	1.66
European	101.38	107.37	+1.34	1.67
Japan	75.23	79.70	+1.41	
American	92.73	98.17	+1.74	1.62
Far East	100.70	107.41	+0.87	1.35
Ethical Inc	39.27	42.00	+1.14	1.27
UK Blue Chip Inc	39.25	41.89†	+0.72	3.04
High Inc Inc	42.37	45.19	+0.98	3.63
UK Global Inc	48.31	51.67†	+0.74	1.90
Wwide Tact	82.05	89.53	+1.40	1.11
Europe 2000 Tact	68.93	73.39	+0.80	1.02
Technology	158.06	168.30	+5.10	0.86
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	475.70	506.20	+12.10	2.71
American	345.90	368.70	+3.40	0.43
Pacific	449.90	481.20	+1.90	0.23
European	668.90	715.40	+0.30	1.05
Worldwide	108.70	116.30	+1.30	0.54
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	319.20	349.20	+9.70	2.07
-do- Accum	424.90	452.00	+12.00	2.07
UK Sml Co Eq Inc	275.70	293.30	+12.70	1.25
-do- Accum	337.19	358.70	+14.70	1.25
Sefuld Opptuty Inc	86.62	92.65†	+2.08	1.56
Income Plus Inc	82.85	88.17†	+1.67	3.28
European Inc	433.10	460.80†	+6.50	0.85
-do- Accum	494.10	525.73†	+7.40	0.83
Far Eastern Inc	198.70	211.40†	+1.30	0.30
-do- Accum	229.00	243.70†	+1.50	0.86
Japanese Inc	67.48	71.01†	+0.86	
Nth American Inc	316.30	336.40†	+6.70	0.12
-do- Accum	349.60	372.00†	+6.90	0.12
Intl Growth Inc	241.00	256.40	+3.48	0.79
Wwide Venture Inc	96.70	102.90†	+1.90	1.80
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 668 3724				
Equity Inc	438.60	482.10	+9.50	2.30
-do- Accum	665.60	709.80	+14.50	2.30
UK High Inc	208.10	221.80	+5.40	3.31
-do- Accum	317.30	338.30	+8.20	3.31
Europe Inc	475.60	507.20	+2.20	0.56
Nth Amer Inc	315.10	336.00	+9.80	
Global Inc	265.10	282.70	+2.50	0.26
Global Acc	285.60	304.80	+2.80	0.26
UK Spec Sits Inc	126.00	134.40	+5.60	1.77
South East Asia	266.60	284.70	+2.60	0.20
Cash Trust Inc	101.60	101.60	+0.10	5.00
UK Smlr Cos Inc	125.80	134.10	+3.40	1.57
-do- Accum	130.90	139.60	+3.50	1.57
Intl Bond Inc	97.42	103.40		5.28
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	158.80	167.20	+3.10	0.83
Nth American	141.00	148.40	+3.70	0.84
Intl Bond & Conv	129.40	136.20	+0.88	6.56
Pooled Pension (E)	230.60	248.00	+3.40	1.93
Smaller Cos	111.30	117.30	+3.90	0.78
UK General	163.90	172.50	+4.40	2.30
Far Eastern	109.80	115.60	+1.00	
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6226				
Amer Gth Fund ‡	128.06	...†	+2.26	
Aztec ‡	69.50	...†	+1.60	
European ‡	165.18	...†	+1.40	0.28
Global Bond ‡	92.14	...†	+0.70	8.59
Investment Trust ‡	114.07	...†	+1.44	1.90
Preferred Income ‡	107.67	...†	+1.97	5.52
Samurai ‡	62.20	...†	+0.28	
Sterling Reserve ‡	100.27	...†	+0.09	6.09
UK Growth ‡	112.76	...†	+3.03	2.71
Tai Pan ‡	112.98	...†	+0.96	
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	112.76	...†	-0.02	2.70
UK Equity Inc ‡	115.27	...†	+2.65	5.22
Glob Gwth PEP	78.01	82.98	+1.52	1.18
Pref Inc PEP #	104.30	109.90†	+1.20	5.50
Inv Trust PEP	56.73	60.35	+0.71	
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	452.98	479.30	+4.10	
Capital	147.90	158.30	+1.50	1.52
Cash	100.38	100.38†	+0.08	5.41
European	162.00	171.50	+0.20	0.94
Far Eastern	176.50	186.80	+3.80	
Growth	165.30	174.90	+3.10	1.67
Income #	138.60	146.70†	+3.80	4.58
Magnum	158.70	169.90†	+1.60	1.47
Smllr Secs	525.80	556.40†	+18.90	0.21
Thoroughbred	185.00	198.20†	+1.80	1.18
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01202 298 422				
Contd Primace	57.44	61.43	+0.64	7.00
Ethical	83.98	89.82†	+4.24	0.29
European Growth	84.98	90.30	+0.75	1.13
Income	62.43	66.77	+1.73	4.30
Intl Growth	118.10	125.90	+0.80	1.17
Managed	97.87	104.10	+1.40	1.85
UK Growth	80.45	86.04	+3.06	1.14
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 393 777				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	47.76	48.00	+0.79	1.73
Global Advtg Acc	61.75	62.01	+0.84	1.73
Income Advtg Inc	36.08	38.28†	+0.68	3.43
Income Advtg Acc	41.41	41.62	+0.78	3.43
UK Equity Gth Acc	93.60	99.22	+1.44	1.21
Premier Inc Inc	48.14	50.67†	+0.46	7.80
Premier Inc Acc	49.90	52.53	+0.48	7.80
Managed Acc	62.90	66.68	+1.19	1.39
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	40.60	43.09†	+0.74	4.13
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	53.13	56.32	+0.97	4.13
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	76.65	81.45	+1.45	2.11
UK Equity Gen Inc	55.37	58.84†	+1.05	2.11
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	30.90	32.69†	+0.29	7.00
Oseas Lrg Co Acc	383.50	416.26	+6.40	1.53
Nth American Acc	59.25	62.96	+1.65	
Pacific Basin	50.98	54.17	+1.05	0.51
European Acc	61.02	64.84	+0.72	0.77
Japan Acc	29.86	31.73	+0.36	
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (NZ$)	4.424	4.603	+0.02	1.72
US Eqts (US$)	3.182	3.379	+0.08	0.94
Far East Eqts (yen)	275.40	292.50	+1.30	
FT Europe	154.60	164.20	+0.40	1.19
FT N Amer (US$)	2.416	2.566	+0.02	0.42
FT Japan (yen)	251.70	266.70	+0.98	
FT Asia Ex.Jap (US$)	2.918	3.099	+0.03	0.01
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	539.00	571.30	+12.30	
British #	1290.90	1365.80	+30.09	2.88
Emrgng Mkts	158.20	168.58	+3.80	0.67
European	686.50	730.30	+7.10	0.66
Japan	146.30	155.40	+2.96	
New Pacific	464.70	494.90	-26.40	0.97
-do- Accum	495.40	527.60	+4.98	0.97
Inv Trust Acc	306.70	325.19	+5.80	0.83
Mngd Equity	211.20	223.40	+5.00	1.51
Mngd Cash	95.59	95.59	+0.10	5.49
SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 389				
Equity	1054.00	1127.00	+19.00	2.28
North America	187.90	201.00	+5.00	
Far East	184.50	197.30	+1.60	0.12
Wwide Bond	60.42	64.15†	+0.27	5.04
European	131.40	140.50	+1.10	1.14
Equity Income #	108.30	115.78	+2.50	4.70
Portfolio	108.80	116.40†	+1.70	1.74
UK Leading Cos	74.84	79.83	+1.90	2.95
High Inc Bond	49.39	49.43	+0.03	7.21
Broker Trusts				
Intnl Equity	79.05	84.55	+1.32	
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Antares UT	25.65	27.29†	+0.10	0.41
European	48.82	51.94†	+0.38	0.64
High Income	35.50	37.77†	+0.86	4.14
Japan	38.86	41.35†	+0.61	0.01
Managed Assets	146.34	156.52	+3.15	2.50
North American	42.12	44.81†	+0.24	0.49
Smlr Co's Inc	37.47	39.87	+1.35	1.80
Smlr Co's Acc	40.52	43.11†	+1.46	1.80
UK Growth Inc	65.27	69.44	+2.13	2.72
UK Growth Acc	72.55	77.19†	+2.37	2.72
UK Income	46.00	49.20	+1.30	3.42
Worldwide Gth	42.18	45.12	+0.51	0.15
Confederation				
European Exmpt	99.44	102.52	+0.84	1.71
Asian & Oceanic Ex	35.75	36.86†	-33.49	0.70
US Exmpt	96.12	99.10†	+0.54	1.29
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Admin & Enq: 0171 606 4044 Dlg: 0171 606 6010				
Discretionary	58.71	63.52	+1.17	
Cap Protector Inc	46.58	49.53†	+0.60	2.78
UK Income Inc	59.81	63.63	+1.39	3.19
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	35.70	37.96†	+0.57	6.09
Mngd High Yld Inc	88.77	94.44	+1.51	4.40
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	87.25	92.82	+2.09	3.28
UK Smaller Cos	41.44	44.09	+1.07	1.68
Pacific Grth Pod	55.46	59.00	+0.02	0.70
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 346 794				
American	297.94	315.28	+7.91	
-do- Accum	328.16	347.26	+8.71	
Brit Growth	117.65	124.50†	+2.97	1.91
-do- Accum	145.04	153.48†	+3.66	1.91
European	128.88	136.38	+1.62	0.04
-do- Accum	137.17	145.16	+1.79	0.04
Extra Income	210.56	222.82	+5.93	3.82
-do- Accum	376.14	398.03†	+10.58	3.82
Smaller Cos	90.22	95.47†	+3.50	0.57
-do- Accum	102.94	108.93†	+4.00	0.57
General	356.50	377.25	+14.56	2.09
-do- Accum	753.12	796.95	+30.77	2.09
Premier Income	50.56	52.67	+0.35	6.89
-do- Accum	121.84	127.82	+0.84	6.89
Income	378.45	400.48	+14.26	3.34
-do- Accum	859.99	909.62	+32.38	3.34
Pacific	473.35	500.89	+4.95	0.42
-do- Accum	497.37	526.31	+5.20	0.42
International	663.59	702.21†	+12.10	
-do- Accum	874.37	925.28†	+15.95	
Nat Resources	220.84	233.69†	-4.45	
Slctd Opps	134.83	142.68†	+3.20	1.44
-do- Accum	175.83	186.06†	+4.16	1.44
Environmental Inv	77.40	81.91	+2.97	1.21
Selector	75.32	79.72	+1.94	1.53
-do- Accum	86.58	91.62	+2.23	1.53
High Income	70.67	74.78	+2.69	4.26
-do- Accum	94.11	99.59	+3.59	4.26
Intl Income	63.77	67.48†	+0.95	5.17
-do- Accum	83.31	88.16†	+1.25	5.17
Selector Income	65.96	69.80†	+0.10	4.19
-do- Accum	82.12	86.90†	+1.67	4.19
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0181 667 1018				
British	400.46	421.53	+9.32	2.55
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	242.50	259.36	+3.56	2.27
Glob Balncd Inc	200.85	214.81†	+3.03	3.19
Value Tst Inc	146.54	156.73	+2.70	1.80
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0171 246 3000 Dealing. 0171 246 3001				
Dresdner Eu Bd	44.94	46.73	+0.23	6.00
European Growth	344.09	360.25†	+1.33	0.70
Eventail	856.61	889.04†	+19.85	2.60
Global Em Mkts	91.63	95.94†	+2.03	0.10
Japan Tst	86.34	90.40	+1.26	
Little Dragons	104.87	109.81†	+0.63	
Nth Amer Gwth	291.13	304.84	+4.89	0.60
Oriental Income #	49.75	52.09†	+0.34	3.10
Preference	128.30	134.34†	+1.56	9.10
Tiger	323.94	339.20	+1.36	
UK Blue Chip	76.44	80.04	+2.56	1.90
UK Growth	654.68	685.50	+18.84	2.20
UK High Yield #	113.71	119.65†	+2.80	4.30
UK Mid-Cap	325.34	340.67†	+11.21	2.40
UK Smllr Cos	129.51	135.61†	+3.27	0.80
UK Smllr Cos Div #	91.71	96.03	+1.36	5.50
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD				
01277 680 336				
UK Equity Income	114.53	121.84	+2.56	3.50
UK Equity Growth	102.76	109.32†	+2.66	2.73
European	79.13	84.18	+0.40	1.12
Nth American	91.93	97.80	+0.69	0.31
Far Eastern	83.76	89.11	+0.43	0.68
Money	70.39	70.39	+0.06	5.43
Fixed Interest	77.16	82.08	+0.52	5.81
Index Linked Gilt	69.99	74.46†	+0.45	1.38
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD				
0345 958565				
Income Trust	101.34	101.34†	+0.42	7.39
UK Index Tracking	129.65	129.65†	+3.19	2.74
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0131 225 1551				
Australasian Gold	31.80	33.47	-0.78	
Pacific Basin	47.56	50.05	+0.25	
Global Bond (US$)	0.8560	0.9021	+0.00	
Penny Share	47.70	50.21	+1.59	
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Challenger	100.40	103.30	+0.50	2.60
Short Dtd Gilt	121.20	122.90†	+0.30	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7684	0.7795	+0.00	
Gilt Income	50.99	53.06†	+0.37	6.60
Gilt Growth	75.40	78.47	+0.78	
Sterling Bond	48.70	50.50	+0.35	6.90
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Int Mgd	57.36	60.64	+0.54	1.39
UK Stockmarket	101.30	107.70	+2.80	2.22
Corporate Bond	47.85	49.33	+0.13	6.68

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; .. No significant data; # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge

هدية من الاهل

هيئة من الأهل

US buying pushes prices higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
558	480	Allied Domecq	501	-3	5.9	18.1
625	500	Bulmer (HP)	622		2.5	19.5
131	115	Burn Stewart	121		5.2	25.8
464	411	Grand Met	452½	+4	4.1	19.5
493	435	Guinness	477½	+6½	3.8	16.2
369	315	Highland Distl	369	+1	2.7	17.1
195	150	Macallan-Glenl	171		1.1	35.1
650	615	Morlnd Mrln 'A'	633		2.2	17.8
787	685	Matthew Clark	785		3.6	
116	93	Marydown W	104	+1	2.4	
2812½	1912½	SA Breweries	2087½	+8¼	1.5	32.2

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3305¼	2743¼	ABN-AMRO	3265¾	+50	4.3	
663	529	Abbey Natl	581½	+7½	4.7	11.2
385	322	Allied Irish	352	+7	4.9	10.3
336	299	Aus New Z	309	-1	5.5	
5243¾	3843¾	Bank America	5025	+62½		
318	238¾	Bank Scotland	261½	+9	2.9	11.6
819	663	Barclays	744½	+1½	4.4	9.7
498	422	Bk of Ireland	468	+2	3.6	9.4
482	424	Cater Allen	444		8.4	7.3
5388¼	4031¼	Citicorp	5100	+50		
392	318	Close Bros	365		3.1	16.2
£157⅝	£142¾	Commerzbk	£148⅛	-3⅞	3.5	
1293¾	1171½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1258¾	+6¼	0.4	
3412½	2978¼	Deutsche Bk	3303¼	-9¾	2.2	
796½	593¾	Espirito Santo	790¾	-6¼	4.6	10.4
1507	1265¼	Fuji Bank Y	1324¾	-15	0.4	
472	398	Gerrard Nat	403	+1	7.0	13.0
252	186	Hambros	248		3.8	
1125	949	HSBC	1000	+4	4.0	11.6
1088	890	HSBC HK	990½	+6½	4.0	11.4
421	385	Irish Perml	391	+5	3.3	
165	143	King Shaxson	155		7.3	12.0
453	448	Leopold J	450		5.2	15.5
347½	294½	Lloyds TSB	327½	-½	3.0	17.6
640	576	Nat Aust Bk	579	+2	7.4	7.5
711	608	Nat West	631½	+½	5.0	8.8
66	58	Rea Brothers	58		2.2	27.5
596	483	Ryl Bk Scot	519½	+7½	3.9	11.8
1380	1165	Schroders	1240	+17	1.6	17.3
1128	890	Schroders N/V	981	+3	2.0	13.7
113	99½	Singer & Fried	105		4.9	8.2
662½	547	Stand Chart	623		2.2	13.6
105	85½	Unidare	103		3.6	
£174¾	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£165⅛	-6⅝	1.8	
318½	264	Westpac	310½	-6	4.7	
305	268	Woolwich	300		4.9	17.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
50	38	Abrdn Stk Hd	39			8.3
368	263	Ascot Hldgs	354	+4		0.7
797½	702	Bass	794	+4	3.6	18.3
70	45	Bk for the Bdr	45		4.5	12.0
177	165	Burtonwd Brw	165	-1	4.1	16.0
123	92	City Centre Rest	123	+3½	2.3	
548	463	Compass Gp	547	+2	1.7	24.1
263	190	Eldridge P 'A'	249		2.3	23.0
480	413	Fuller Sm 'A'	480	+2	2.3	18.9
616	551	Greenalls Grp	618	+3½	2.9	16.7
679	604	Greene King	679	+7	2.7	16.7
278	224	Grosvenor Inns	231		3.0	24.6
254	204	Groupe Chez Gert	224	+6	1.4	22.7
357	300	Hardy Hanson	313		4.0	11.7
230	155	Heavitree	210		3.5	

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
535	426	Brammer	528	+4	3.4	
22	18	Bridgend Gp	21		1.2	
101	76	Bsl Fittings	100	-1	4.5	
290	245	Camas	285		5.0	19.7
14¼	10½	Caverdale	14¼		2.6	
78	65½	Central Mtr	71		0.9	
92	78	Charles Sidney	88	+1	5.1	13.8
61	54½	Cook (DC)	58		3.7	8.5
365	287	Cowie	365	+5	3.6	13.7
170	120½	Dag Motors	170		5.7	
163	135½	Dennis	163		2.0	14.7
434	385	Diploma	420		4.3	13.6
395	328	Electrocomponts	395	+12	1.9	26.8
414	271	Eurodis Elec	293	+1	1.9	21.1
132	65	Eurodollar	132	+2	7.4	7.9
105	78	European Mtr	84	+2	7.7	7.2
353	288	Evans Halshaw	353	+13	5.8	12.8
67	57	File Indmar	63		6.5	
304	248	Finelist Grp	304	+1	2.3	17.9
29	18½	Gardiner	29		3.7	11.6
64½	33½	Glenchewton	58		1.9	42.6
88	84	Cowrings	87		4.0	
250	216	Harris (Philip)	250		3.7	15.9
261	200½	Headlam	261	+1	2.3	
651	497	Heylys	651	+1	3.3	19.1
150	132	Holdsts Tech	150		5.0	28.5
185	153	ISA Intl	174	+1	1.7	
316	231	Inchcape	312	-2	3.7	
60	33	Jacks (Wm)	51	+3	4.4	
222	169	Kwik-Fit	221	-1	2.8	15.5
338	298	Lex Service	338	+8	5.5	12.3
147½	119	Lookers	139	+1	7.4	7.8
17	10½	Malaya Grp	13½		8.1	14.0
9¼	7¼	Middlecrest	8¼	+¼	0.8	18.9
47	31	Midstates	42	+1		
544	440	Norbain	544	+9	1.7	18.5
304	232	Northamber	303	+1	0.7	24.3
162	135	PCT	149	+2	6.5	10.6
313	272	Pendragon	313	+4	3.6	15.9
205	145	Perry Gp	205	+10	5.0	
717	603	Premier Farnell	717	+27	1.7	20.8
161	135	Quicks Group	161	+4	4.9	
246	185	REA	243		2.1	28.9
3	2	Reece	2	-¼		
61	39	Ronson	51	+3	3.1	10.4
3½	2	Ross Gp	2¾			
55	49	SEP Ind	51½		3.9	12.0
19	12	Saltire	19	+½	0.7	
300	246	Time Products	300	+3	3.9	17.5
41	30	Tores Hire	35	+1	4.6	18.4
306	268	Vardy (Reg)	306	+3	2.5	17.0
410	325	Wholesale Ftgs	409		3.7	21.7
59	31½	Wilshaw	34½	-2	2.9	8.2
118	78	Wyko	116		1.9	
125	104	Young (H)	114		4.3	15.3

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
0¾	0½	Anglo Utd	0½			
388	288	Antofagasta	348	-2	1.9	11.6
1011	896	Broken Hill	990		2.8	21.3
340	313	BTR	321½	+4½	5.7	13.3
566	477	BAT	507½	+3½	5.9	10.5
215	181	Beristord Intl	209	+1	1.8	20.3
125	111	Bibby (J)	122		5.9	9.8
62½	50¾	Boxley Invt	61¾	-½	7.5	3.2
928	817	Charter	928	+35	3.7	13.7
328	282	Cookson	321	-6	3.1	16.8
168	141	Cozall	167		6.5	10.5
256	204	DCC	243	+1	3.4	10.7
139	130	Grampian Hdg	139	+2	5.7	
220	179	Hanson	200¼	+4¼	7.5	10.0
172½	142	Harrison Crsfld	147	+1	7.7	15.6
439¼	379½	Hutch Whamp	403¼	-4½	1.9	21.4
563½	441¼	Jardine Math	525½	-¼	3.1	
217½	174½	Lonrho	199	+½	3.0	22.3

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
255	200	Quadrantric	245		4.2	15.2
18	14½	Quadrant Gp	15		2.1	41.9
66	62	Radiant Metal	65			
69	53	Rancomas	67			18.6
73	56½	Record	71		6.8	12.9
277	231	Renold	274½		2.4	15.5
36	31	Richards Group	31		8.1	9.2
89	78	Richardson West	80		5.9	
242	187	Rolls-Royce	242	+5	2.6	28.6
218	171	Rotork	216	+3	3.1	
184	160	Rubicon	184	+4	3.7	18.3
1569¾	1187½	SKF 'B'	1500	+6¼	3.4	
108	92½	Senior Eng	107	+4	4.3	
245	158	Swtld-Reel	227		1.7	23.5
887	750	Smiths	880	+8	1.8	24.3
84	70	Simon Eng	79		1.0	29.9
263	150	Sir Hanlord	262	+1	1.1	18.8
720½	622	Smiths Ind	720	+6	2.6	21.2
731	593	Spirax-Sarco	731		2.3	21.6
314	287	Sterling Ind	313		3.1	15.2
541	456	TI	541	+10	2.8	21.0
99	94	Tinsley (E)	94		7.5	13.8
108	78	Transtec	108	+2	2.6	
180	140	Triplex Lloyd	175	-1	5.0	13.0
151	137	Unicorn Intl	150		4.6	
16½	14¼	Utd Inds	15½		3.7	
14	10¼	Verson	13½			
302	249	Vickers	264	-2	3.2	17.2
14	12	Villiers Gp	12½			
770	707	Vitec	755		1.8	14.3
882	815	Vosper Thorny	825	-2	3.3	15.0
436	380	Wagon Ind	415	+4	5.8	12.0
271	212	Weir	271	+2	3.5	
255	228	Wellington Hdgs	255		3.6	
50	42	Wellman	48½	+1	4.3	10.6
425	363	Whatman	409	-1	3.6	17.4
122	73	Widney	76		5.7	8.9

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
145	109	Adwest	146	+8	6.7	41.7
275	265	Airflow Stream	270		3.7	6.3
610	473	Avon Rubber	608	+4	3.6	14.8
80¼	57½	BSG	80¼	+1¼	5.1	
325	273	Bodycote	325		2.6	
29	20	Boustead	21		6.0	
252	175	ERF	239	+7	2.4	14.1
460	431	First Tech	442	+4	2.1	15.8
997	778	GKN	982	+9	3.0	18.1
3800	3112½	General Mtr	3750	-31¼	2.8	
1491¼	1312¼	Honda Motor	1432¼	+¼	0.6	
481	386	Laird	480		3.2	
445	425	Loades	445		0.3	
238	172	Lucas	225	+1	3.9	29.8
107	91	Mayflower	106½	+½	2.3	42.2
178	145	Sylone	168		3.5	13.8
187	152	T & N	177	+1	4.2	11.3
439	351	Trinity Hldgs	429		2.2	20.0

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
519	475	Candover	519	+5	3.2	..
63½	39	Central Euro Growth	63½	+2	0.9	
214	177	Contl Assets	213		1.8	78.4
75	67	Danae Inv Inc	67		14.9	7.8
370	325	Derby Cap	370			
160	142	Derby Inc	142		17.0	7.3
744	683	Dunedin Inc Gt	708	+4	4.9	24.8
96	84	Dunedin Japan	94½	+½		
346	314	Dunedin Smlr	346	+2	3.3	44.5
34	16	Dunedin Wts	25			
873	791	Dunedin Worldw	873	+3	1.4	76.2

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
124	111	Murray Ent	124	+2	2.4	46.9
23	17	Murray Ent Wts	20			
95	82	Murray Emg Eco	92¼		1.2	
35½	21	Murray Em Ec Wt	28½			
65	54	Murray Europ	64		0.7	
392	370	Murray Income	377		4.0	31.1
426	377	Murray Intl	426	+2	3.7	37.2
184½	180	Murray S/C DP	184½	+½		
151	135	Murray S/C Cap	136	+1		
73	66	Murray S/C Inc	69	+1	20.6	8.1
3050	2850	Murray S/C Uts	2937½		0.5	

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
576	495	Dorling Kindr	565		0.9	40.0
674	530	EMAP	674	+6½	2.0	26.2
1091	845¼	Elsevier	1040¾	+25½	2.2	
1338	1030	Euromoney Pb	1275		4.3	25.6
34	19	Fitch	34			
535	440	Flextech	507			
240	198	GGT Group	205	+1	3.3	15.7
259¾	174	GWR Grp	211	+1	1.3	32.3
226	200	Gearhouse Group	223		2.5	14.6
26	18	Goodhead	25		0.5	
277	217	Grampian	249		2.4	21.3

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1203	1075	Henderson Ad	1100		5.1	20.2
286	236	Invesco	246	+1	2.3	
44	41	Investment Co	43		6.6	13.2
241	228	Ivory Sime	241		4.0	17.9
230½	196	Jardine Strat	212¾	-1½	4.5	
153	98	Johnson Fry	153	+13	3.3	
263	218	Lon Forfaiting	263	+1	4.8	
254	216	London Pacific	252	-1	7.6	
117	87½	Lon Scot Bk	109		2.9	22.6
161	139	Man ED & F	158	+1	7.6	8.1
1364	1157	M & G	1200		8.3	24.0
470	304	MAI	440	+1	3.0	10.6
172½	113½	MAI 5.9% Cv Pf	164½	+½	4.5	
918	841	MAM	899	-1	3.8	19.8
109	94	Nat Home Loan	95½		1.3	4.2
2255	1830	Perpetual	2213		2.3	23.4
948	790	Provident	948	+4	3.7	18.9
336	320	Rathbone Brs	328		3.9	
55½	37½	Rutland Tst	55½		2.7	20.9
385	290	S & U	380		4.3	11.2
121	100	SJP Capital	117		3.2	22.1
607	499½	Save Pacific	535½	-3½	2.3	20.6
43	33	Towry Law	35		3.6	
363	328	Transatlantic	363	+3	5.0	20.7
7½	5	Trio Hldgs	7½			

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
498	258	Lloyds Chem	472	-1	2.6	18.0
186	149½	MFI	183	-1	2.9	27.3
457	418¼	Marks Spencer	457	+6½	2.8	19.8
635	525	Menzies (John)	578	+20	2.9	14.6
20	15½	Merchant Retail	18½			12.9
920	615	Moss Bros	910		2.5	
582½	420	Next	566	-8	2.7	24.3
63	51	Oliver (G)	51			
494	400	[illegible]	494		2.8	19.7
75	66	Partridge Fine	70		5.2	11.8
56	32	QS Hldgs	52	-3	3.8	
74	9½	Rhino Grp	11½	+½		
226	191	Rosebys	226	+5	3.1	18.3
105	94	Sears	98	+1	5.0	15.6
34	14¼	Signet Group	29½	-¼		
495	399	Smith WH	495	+4	4.0	28.7
895	820	Sothebys	873		1.8	
362	281	Storehouse	360	+3	2.3	22.2
130	90	Stylo	110	-2	5.5	
211	181	T & S Stores	211	+8	4.3	12.3
171	165	Tie Rack	165		2.1	
3½	2¼	Upton & South	3¼			
588	542	Vendome	576	+2	2.2	20.9
17	12	WEW Group	13	-1	3.4	
140	120	Wickes	140	+2	1.9	
84	52	Wnd of Leather	74		2.7	
222	198	Wyevale	216		3.1	

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2825	1660	Brit Biotech	2805	+120		..
670	340	Cantab Pharms	625	-43		
692	473½	Celltech	593	+13		
329	224	Chiroscience	283	+6		
387	166	Cortecs	383	+26		
969	781	Glaxo Wellcome	810	+10	4.6	16.4
296	208	Medeva	256	-2	2.1	14.0
230	198	Peptide Thera	215			
735	524	Scotia	735	+26		
223	185	Shire Pharms	206			
756½	628¾	SmithKline	703½	+27	2.6	19.4
1408	1216	Zeneca	1366	+12	2.8	22.1

PRINTING & PAPER

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	130	AG Holdings	150	+4	4.9	12.4
635	547	API	635		2.0	23.2
140	91	App Holo	136	-1		
212	164	Arjo Wiggins	194	+6	4.8	39.1
295	239	Aspen Comm	275		2.9	
397	365½	Bemrose	384		4.7	
165	138	Blagden	165	+1	1.2	21.4
2725	2168¾	Bowater Inc	2709¾	+46¼		..
560	419	Boxmore Intl	560	+3	1.2	
765	645	Br Polythene	761	+1	2.8	15.8
38	16	Br Thornton	34	-4	3.7	11.5
162	150	Britton Grp	158	+4	2.4	14.3
229	191	Bunzl	229	+5	3.2	14.9
270	173	Capital Inds	195		3.4	12.5
302	284	Cropper (James)	287		1.6	19.1
755	651	De La Rue	729	+13	4.0	15.4
95	84	Delyn Group	84		2.6	12.2
156	131	Dolphin Pack	156		4.3	
95¼	86	[illegible]	86		5.6	14.7
235	190	Ferguson Intl	230		7.2	10.1
275	231	Filofax	238	+3	1.5	16.4
177	130	Inveresk	144		5.0	
310	275	Jarvis Porter	304		2.6	16.2
570	459	Low & Bonar	569	+8	2.9	15.8
105	66	MY Holdings	105	+1	2.5	20.3

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1165	883	ADT	1088			
135	100	Alpha Airpts	135		4.7	
38	27	Alphameric	34		0.9	25.5
44	25	Auto Sec	29			
213	123	BET Ord	202½	-3	2.6	20.3
158	129	BNB Rest	158	+5	5.1	..
328	283	BPP	328		4.3	
184	155	BSM	178		4.8	12.8
1420	1015	BTG	1415	+100	0.4	
1350	850	Boxford	1187½			
107	89	Br Bloodstock	103			33.2
164	123	Brit Data Mgmt	163		4.1	23.6
95	80	Brooks Service	93		4.0	
410	376	Business Post	384		2.3	25.7
563	329	CMG	534	-1	1.1	
138	117½	CRT Gp	138		3.5	21.2
958¾	187	Carrs Gp	224			
358	285	Capita Group	356		1.4	
21	15	Cardinal Bus	17			
10¼	7½	Chorion	8¼		2.3	14.8
376	317	Chubb Sec	376	+2	2.5	19.9
146	92	Corp Services	142	-3	3.1	
56	46	Coutts Cnsltg	52		4.8	
101	73	DCS Gp	96	+2	2.0	15.1
262	214	Davis Service	261	+3	4.6	13.5
400	367	Delphi	400	+5	1.4	15.6
142	98	Dudley Jenkins	138		3.1	21.2
68	38	EW Fact	67		1.4	9.2
116	79	El Data Prc	85		3.2	11.2
432	362	Hays	432	+5	2.1	31.0
244	210	Hogg Robinson	244	+3	4.1	14.9
2028¾	1434¾	ISS B DKr	1962½	+6¼	1.3	13.1
480	360	JBA Hldgs	479	+2	1.1	
282	256	Johnson Cleanrs	267		5.2	12.1
126	103	Kalamazoo	110		4.4	11.0
464	351	Kewill Sys	464	+5	1.8	16.4
347	123	LBMS	148	-5		
18	13	Laser-Scan	18			
101	90	Leigh	98		8.4	11.6
566	452	Logica	556	+13	1.5	23.6
85½	40½	MDIS	85		7.6	18.6
339	246	MMT Comp	335		2.3	20.5
101	66	MR Group	88	-1	3.8	
428	338	Macro 4	428		6.6	11.5

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
114	96½	INVESCO Asia	110½	+1		
64	59	INVESCO Blue	64	+1	16.4	7.2
170	135	INVESCO Eng Int	170	+3	0.7	
137	122	INVESCO Korea	132	+½		
62½	52½	INVESCO Tokyo	61	+¼		
88½	69	J Fry 2nd U	88½		9.6	11.1
79	68	J Fry Euro U	78	+2	7.1	14.3
251	234	JF Fledg Jap	241			
88	74	Jupiter Ex Inc	82	+1½	11.9	9.0
7	4	Jupiter Ex IncWt	4			
83	70	Jupiter Grd Cap	75		13.0	9.6

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
163	161	Euro Leisure	161			4.4
16	13½	Ferningford	14			
79	62	First Choice	69		7.1	
398	347	First Leisure	395	+4	2.4	23.0
189	142	Friendly Hotels	189	+14	3.8	
836	619	Granada	835	+12	1.8	20.2
34	25	Hi-Tec Sports	31		5.2	
198	148	Hornby	182			
543	423	[illegible]	538	-1	2.1	20.5
258¼	201	Jurys Hotel	258¼	+18¼	3.1	16.5
30¼	23¼	Kunick	29	-½	2.6	24.4
198	143	Ladbroke	193½	-2½	3.3	31.4

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1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
37	24½	Jupiter Grd Pfd	27	+½		
128	108	Jupiter Int Gm	113		4.1	
279½	252	Klnwt Chrt	279½	+½	2.5	49.4
130	114	Klnwt E Mkt	121½	+½		
150	133	Klnwt End	145			
91½	80	Klnwt Euro Prvt	91¼		3.1	40.9
24½	19¼	Klnwt Euro Wts	24¼	+¼		
84	74	Klnwt H Inc	82	+2	13.1	8.9
298	274	Klnwt O'seas	297		1.5	79.1
166	136	Klnwt Smlr	166	+2	2.5	49.1
597	524	Korea—Euro	593	+12½	0.1	
118½	96¾	Latin American	104½	-1		
1007	930	Law Debenture	1005		2.8	35.8

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
560	425	London Clubs	540		3.2	18.3
351½	188	Man Utd	329	-2	1.8	10.6
90¼	77¼	Mandarin Orntl	89	-½	4.1	18.9
117	89	Northern	115	-1	4.4	12.8
141	114	Prism Leisure	125		5.0	8.7
36	29	Queensborough	31			
32	11¾	Queens Moat	31	+2		
546½	442	Rank Orgn	542	+4	3.1	15.1
42½	31	Ryan Hotels	41½		4.8	
1390	930	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1356		1.3	53.9
193	175	Sinclair (Wm)	193	+2	5.0	12.4
115	88	Stakis	114	+1½	1.9	24.0
463	335	Stanley Leisure	463		1.7	24.0

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
143	105	Aberdeen Tst	121	+1	2.6	23.8
107	77	BWD	102		6.1	12.3
40	34½	Berry Bch Nbt	35		9.3	9.9
320	252	[illegible]	287	+5		
184	151	Brewin Dolphin	181		4.8	12.7
785	700	Caledonia	785	+2	2.7	34.3
2300	1995¼	Camellia	2025		2.3	18.6
260	213	Cattles	257½		3.3	18.5
32	18	Christie	32	+2		
125	90	EFT Group	121		2.2	14.4
718	658	EFM	701		4.5	17.1
118	91	Exco	102		11.7	11.6
274	240	Gartmore	249		0.9	21.0

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
103	100[illegible]	Treas 15¼% 1996	100[illegible]	-[illegible]	15.20	6.15
102[illegible]	100[illegible]	Exch 13¼% 1996	100[illegible]	-[illegible]	13.18	6.21
217[illegible]	215[illegible]	Treas 2% 1996	217[illegible]	+[illegible]	0.92	5.90
103[illegible]	102[illegible]	Conv 10% 1996	102[illegible]		9.78	6.01
101[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 7% 1997	100[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.95	6.41
107[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 13¼% 1997	105[illegible]	-[illegible]	12.59	6.06
104[illegible]	103[illegible]	Exch 10½% 1997	103[illegible]	..	10.14	6.12
104[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 1997	102[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.50	6.47
114[illegible]	111[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	112	+[illegible]	13.39	6.58
106[illegible]	104[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	104[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.29	6.70
102[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	100[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.19	6.81
100[illegible]	99[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	99[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.77	6.90
116[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas 14% 1996-98	113[illegible]	+[illegible]	12.33	6.91
122[illegible]	118[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	118[illegible]	+[illegible]	13.05	6.97
114[illegible]	111[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	111[illegible]	+[illegible]	10.77	7.07
108[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	105[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.97	7.09
118[illegible]	112[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	113[illegible]	+[illegible]	10.82	7.17
112[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	109[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.63	7.17
98[illegible]	96	Treas 6% 1999	96[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.22	7.21
112[illegible]	108[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	109[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.40	7.32
108[illegible]	104[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	105[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.54	7.39
105[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	102[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.83	7.43
124[illegible]	119[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	119[illegible]	+[illegible]	10.85	7.46
114	105[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	109[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.11	7.56

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
101[illegible]	96[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	97[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.19	7.61
114[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	109[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.87	7.75
105[illegible]	99[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	101[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.91	7.79
117[illegible]	110[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	111[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.94	7.85
119[illegible]	114[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	115[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.97	7.70
83[illegible]	79[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	79[illegible]	+[illegible]	4.38	6.71
114[illegible]	108	Conv 9½% 2004	109[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.69	7.98
96[illegible]	91[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	92[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.29	7.95
108[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	103[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.22	7.98
114[illegible]	108[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	109[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.67	8.00
131½	124[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	125[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.97	7.98
101[illegible]	94[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	96[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.78	8.07
108[illegible]	96[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	97[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.92	8.05
104[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	99[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.02	8.08
125[illegible]	118[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	119[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.82	7.93
108[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	103	+[illegible]	8.25	8.09
138[illegible]	130[illegible]	Treas 13½% 2004-08	132[illegible]	+[illegible]	10.22	7.97
112[illegible]	105	Treas 9% 2008	106[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.42	8.11
104½	98[illegible]	Treas 8% 2009	98[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.09	8.14

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
88[illegible]	81[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	83[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.47	8.19
112[illegible]	104[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	106[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.42	8.19
113[illegible]	104[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	107[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.41	8.21
82[illegible]	76[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	77[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.08	7.94
103[illegible]	95[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	98	+[illegible]	8.16	8.22
101[illegible]	93[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	95[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.12	8.22
103½	95[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	98	+[illegible]	8.16	8.20
111[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	105[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.33	8.24
141[illegible]	130[illegible]	Exch 12% 2013-17	133[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.97	8.32
99[illegible]	95[illegible]	Treas 8% 2021	97[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.17	8.20

UNDATED

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
45½	41[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	42[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.27	..
32[illegible]	29[illegible]	Treas 2½%	29[illegible]		8.37	
50[illegible]	46[illegible]	Consols 4%	47[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.40	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
113[illegible]	111[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	112[illegible]	+[illegible]	1.34	2.77
180[illegible]	176[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	178[illegible]	+[illegible]	2.98	3.53
176[illegible]	171[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	174[illegible]	+[illegible]	3.17	3.59
116[illegible]	112[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	114[illegible]	+[illegible]	3.22	3.60
185[illegible]	179[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2006	182[illegible]	+[illegible]	3.30	3.62
167[illegible]	161[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	164[illegible]	+[illegible]	3.42	3.67
173[illegible]	166[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	169[illegible]	+[illegible]	3.48	3.70
143	136[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	139[illegible]	+[illegible]	3.52	3.72
152[illegible]	145[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	148[illegible]	+[illegible]	3.56	3.74
148	138[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	142[illegible]	+[illegible]	3.60	3.76
122	115[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	118[illegible]	+[illegible]	3.59	3.73
120[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	116[illegible]	+[illegible]	3.60	3.74

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
86	58	County Gdns	85	+1	2.0	
1275	850	Dawson Hdgs	1275		2.9	34.2
198	53	Fitsaint	55			
23	14	Freepages	23			
117	92	Megalomedia	97			
475	125	Memory Corp	198	+18		
110	90	Old English Pub	110		1.1	
445	365	Pal City	388	+5		
685	524	Southern News	582		3.4	15.3
68	50	Southern Vectis	68			
212	122	Surrey Fr Inns	212	+2	1.2	24.9
57	46	Trocadero	56	-1	..	..

Source: Finstat

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Venables takes FA to task over successor

By Peter Ball

TWENTY-FOUR hours after apparently opening and then closing the door to his continuation as England coach, Terry Venables yesterday criticised the Football Association's delay in appointing his successor. Venables returned to the subject when the England squad assembled at Bisham Abbey to prepare for Wednesday's match against Croatia.

"It's a good job I didn't wait until after Euro '96. I've got to say that, because if it had taken the same amount of time, there would have been a certain amount of matches already played," Venables said. "That's why it was helpful of me to make my announcement at Christmas because it still gave the FA plenty of time to do it."

With suggestions that Glenn Hoddle's contract negotiations with Chelsea are stalling while he waits for an approach, the FA may be closer than Venables realises. Yesterday David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, insisted that the process was not stagnating. "We are progressing. I hope the situation is resolved as soon as possible," he said.

Fowler: may lead attack

The first World Cup qualifying game against Moldova is on September 1, but as there is no time for Venables's predecessor to bed in with matches anyway, the only real reason for haste would seem to be for Venables, himself, if he still harbours hopes of being approached again. That remains unlikely.

With Shearer and Ferdinand missing, Venables yesterday was considering a move from the Christmas tree, to the red arrows, a rather more aggressive formation, for the match against Croatia, using an all-Liverpool attack of Collymore and Fowler, with McManaman in his free role behind them. Venables is a cautious man, however, and he may not want to take such a bold step.

"They are a very good combination now," Venables said. "I've got to think it through and decide what is best for myself, the team, and everyone else. There's no doubt McManaman's experience of playing with both of them helps, but whether it's the right thing to do is another matter."

Collymore has been in excellent form during Liverpool's run-in this year and his partnership with the prolific Fowler is burgeoning. "I've always believed I can play at this level, and to play with Robbie would be a bit special," Collymore said. "As a partnership I don't see why we can't work for England.

"I'm not as much of an out-and-out striker as I was last season. The gaffer [Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager] didn't want me and Robbie pushing up against two centre halves and I've had to do something different to justify my place. It gives me more of the ball, and making goals for Robbie is almost as enjoyable as scoring them."

Peter Beardsley was the only member of the England squad not to train yesterday. Croatia have included Igor Stimac, the Derby County defender, and Slaven Bilic, of West Ham, in their squad.

There was a brief respite in the withdrawals from the Ireland squad for their game with the Czech Republic in Prague on Wednesday when Jason McAteer returned after withdrawing on Thursday. "I am going to join the squad, although I am doubtful and it is possible I may be sent back home," McAteer said, after treatment on his knee at Anfield. Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, has lost Staunton, Alan Kelly, Gary Kelly, Cascarino, Aldridge, Phelan, O'Neill and Farrelly from his original selection.

Germany have failed to get Jürgen Klinsmann available for their first game in the European Championship, against the Czech Republic, at Old Trafford on June 9. The German FA mounted a campaign to get bookings incurred in the qualifying matches discounted. "We are not prepared to make any changes," Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, said last night.

RAOUL DIXON

Reid, brought in to save Sunderland from the second division, has taken the club to the verge of the Premiership

Reid's record deserves promotion

Peter Ball says bigger challenges lie ahead for the architect of the Roker renaissance

FOOTBALL managers with brief singing careers behind them are not unknown — Kevin Keegan, Glenn Hoddle and Terry Venables all cut discs in their playing days. For a manager to be the subject of a hit song is another matter, making Peter Reid unique when *Cheer Up, Peter Reid*, the Sunderland supporters' version of *Day Dream Believer*, reached 41 in the charts.

Reid deserves such acclaim. He has still to prove that he can manage great players and build a great team, because so far he has not had the resources, but on his achievements with two ordinary teams at Manchester City and Sunderland, he could become one of the game's outstanding managers.

His team are flying higher than the record. The opening line reflects his lugubrious countenance while watching games, but as anyone who has been out with him can testify, he knows how to enjoy himself, and he is enjoying himself hugely at the moment as Sunderland go into their game with Stoke City tomorrow with the Endsleigh Insurance League first division title within their grasp.

It has been a remarkable transformation. Nine of the players in the team which beat Birmingham City 3-0 on Tuesday were on the books when Reid arrived at Roker Park 13 months ago, charged with saving the club from relegation. Reid had been out of management for 18 months, in spite of his success with Manchester City, where he had taken a limited side to fifth, fifth and ninth in the Premiership, before being sacked three games into the 1993-94 season. In the light of what has happened since at Maine Road, these were halcyon days for City.

Reid's record suggested that he should have got a job as soon as the sacking season began, but unaccountably nothing suitable emerged. Instead, he continued playing, helping out at Southampton and Notts County before ending up at Bury.

Even when the Sunderland job arrived, it was initially a short-term appointment. It quickly became permanent. Understandably, Reid now allows himself a quiet smile at the prospect of City and Sunderland changing places.

"The defence was all right when I was there," he said, "but I wanted to bring in Sinclair, Townsend and Paul Stewart to give us a bit more in attack. But he [Peter Swales, the chairman] wouldn't let me spend the money."

The key player at Sunderland has been Paul Bracewell, Reid's old Everton midfield colleague, who has given him a leader on the field and a like-minded assistant off it. "Paul's influence on this football club has been massive, on and off the field," Reid said.

His other signings were David Kelly and, last month, Paul Stewart, this time on a free transfer. He had got his man at last, again to some raised eyebrows, especially as Reid wanted him to play in his original position as a striker.

"I don't think he's a goalscorer," Reid said, "but he's a strong so-and-so, and I do like a forward who can hold it up and give the midfield players a chance to get in. Since he's been here, Kevin Ball and Steve Agnew have scored three goals each."

Bolton's performances this season suggest that Reid will need more than free transfer players if Sunderland are to survive next year. Even the £10 million he is expected to be given looks barely adequate. But if Sunderland are unable to live up to their estimation of themselves as one of the leading clubs, Reid is too hard-headed to persevere at an impossible task. And if he leaves Sunderland, it will surely be for a genuinely big club.

Sunderland at ready

SUNDERLAND could be promoted to the FA Carling Premiership today without kicking a ball (Peter Ball writes). If third-placed Crystal Palace fail to win at Wolverhampton Wanderers, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division leaders will be sure of promotion, even before they face Stoke City at Roker Park tomorrow.

Palace's run from the lower half of the table into a play-off slot since Dave Bassett arrived has seen them suffer only one defeat in 13 games. Now, even Derby County, in second place, are within their range, and Bassett yesterday rejected suggestions that his team might benefit from a further year in the Endsleigh League.

In the short term, at least, Bassett has made more impact than Mark McGhee, the Wolverhampton manager, whose side are without a win in four games. This afternoon, they will be without Darren Ferguson, who is suspended while Palace are missing their captain, Ray Houghton, for the same reason.

Bassett did insist, however, that he will not want to know the result of the Derby game — who today are at home to Birmingham City — until after the match. Palace supporters are unlikely to show similar restraint.

FA perpetuating one law for rich another for poor

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

In football, as in life, it is a fallacy to pretend that the playing field is level between rich and poor. In the past week the Football Association has come down with crushing effect on Bournemouth Poppies, a club playing in the Jewson Wessex League, and effectively putting that 125-year-old club out of existence because of non-payment of a transfer fee of £1,250.

The guardians of Lancaster Gate, meanwhile, decided to take absolutely no action against Alex Ferguson, the manager of England's richest club, Manchester United, after he deliberately used television, radio and print to accuse Leeds United players of "cheating" on their manager; effectively, Ferguson alleged that Leeds had over many games not played to their potential, the gravest accusation in the game since it affects the very integrity of sport.

First, the intriguing tale from the country shire. Bournemouth Poppies received a letter last Saturday informing them that they were suspended from all footballing activity, from their best semi-pro to their youngest boy in the youth team, until the £1,250 owed to Salisbury City for the transfer of Paul Morrell, a full back, was paid, plus VAT, plus a £150 fine imposed by the FA on a club clearly struggling to pay its way.

The effect on the young players, and the voluntary men who run their team, was particularly unjustified. Surely it is the remit of Lancaster Gate to foster the game in this country, not to prohibit it? Steve Double, speaking for the FA, insists that this is not an action without precedent, though Lancaster Gate cannot cite any. "We find when we have financial problems at this level that the threat of suspension is the only weapon we have," Double said. "The actual charge against Bournemouth Poppies was failing to reply to correspondence. The club was given 14 days to pay."

At the heart of this problem lies a club which could not pay its bills. As it happened, a benefactor, Pierre Cuglietta, born in France of an Italian father and the proprietor of Fireside Gallery, stepped in to draw a banker's draft for the full amount, to deliver it by hand to Salisbury, and to obtain a receipt. Within 24 hours, the ban was rescinded, and the youth team managed to play their game on Thursday night, having previously been told they would be deprived of it by order of the FA.

But wait a moment. Who believes that the high-and-mighty clubs, not to mention those of the Endsleigh Insurance League third division, live by principles other than the Heseltine method of deferring payment until actually forced to cough up? Who has heard of FA suspensions, as opposed to the perfectly correct authoritarian attitude of banning miscreant clubs from operating on the transfer market, while their debts are untenable?

This is not to excuse football's habit of living beyond its means — the FA is quite right to govern that more strictly than in the past — but if the principle applies outside the professional game then it has to evenly apply inside it. Manchester United, who sold Paul Ince to Internazionale, of Italy, one of the richest clubs in the world, are receiving the transfer fee in the customary manner, on the never-never system of a downpayment and further increments as and when Inter can pay.

Cuglietta, who stepped in as the Poppies' sponsor when the club was let down earlier in the season, admits that it was unwise of the Bournemouth club to ignore a letter. "But what concerned me was that a stigma was being attached to this club, and that was unfair on all the people who do marvellous work unpaid, and devastating to boys who just want to play to the best of their capability, boys like my own son who has reached county level with the help of playing for the Poppies."

But Lancaster Gate came down unsympathetically on the struggling Hampshire club. At the start of the year, again involving Manchester United — a club which reaps a million pounds whenever it plays at Old Trafford — they had fined that club £20,000 for "poaching" a schoolboy from Oldham. A fine, but no really crippling action.

Similarly, the FA says that Ferguson's unprovable assertions against the Leeds professionals, who to a man insist that they are doing their best, is his right under freedom of speech. But if, to use a non-professional's word, it stigmatises the whole approach to the entertainment, and it casts aspersions on the purpose and the honesty of the best players in the land, such a statement ought to be answerable.

Alas, no. As the American critic, John Leonard, once said: "The rich are different from you and me because they have more credit."

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

(-) Derby v Birmingham
(1) Grimsby v Sheffield Utd
(2) Leicester v Huddersfield
(3) Luton v Watford
(4) Millwall v Oldham
(5) Norwich v West Bromwich
(6) Port Vale v Tranmere
(7) Portsmouth v Barnsley
(8) Reading v Charlton
(9) Southend v Ipswich
(10) Wolverhampton v Crystal Palace

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	43	22	15	6	59	31	81
Derby	43	20	15	8	66	46	75
Crystal Palace	43	19	15	9	64	45	72
Charlton	41	16	17	8	53	42	65
Stoke	41	17	12	12	55	45	63
Ipswich	41	17	11	13	73	61	62
Huddersfield	42	17	11	14	59	53	62
Leicester	42	15	14	13	56	59	59
Birmingham	43	15	12	16	59	58	57
Port Vale	41	14	13	14	53	58	55
Sheff Utd	43	14	13	16	51	53	55
Southend	43	14	13	16	49	58	55
Barnsley	42	13	15	14	56	63	54
West Brom	42	15	9	18	54	63	54
Grimsby	42	14	12	16	50	59	54
Norwich	43	13	14	16	55	51	53
Wolves	42	13	14	15	55	56	53
Millwall	43	13	12	18	41	59	51
Tranmere	41	12	14	15	55	56	50
Reading	42	11	16	15	49	59	49
Portsmouth	43	12	12	19	60	68	48
Oldham	41	11	13	17	49	47	46
Watford	42	8	17	17	54	65	41
Luton	41	10	11	20	36	57	41

Second division

(11) * Blackpool v Swindon
(12) Bournemouth v Walsall
(13) Bradford v Chesterfield
(14) Brighton v Carlisle
(15) Bristol City v Oxford Utd
(16) Crewe v Rotherham
(17) Notts County v Burnley
(18) Peterborough v Bristol Rovers
(19) Shrewsbury v Brentford
(20) Stockport v York
(21) Wrexham v Hull
(22) Wycombe v Swansea

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	40	23	13	4	64	30	82
Blackpool	43	22	12	9	62	37	78
Oxford Utd	42	20	11	11	62	38	71
Notts County	42	19	14	9	56	36	71
Crewe	42	21	7	14	73	53	70
Chesterfield	41	19	12	11	57	44	69
Wrexham	42	16	15	11	63	51	63
Bradford	42	19	6	17	63	64	63
Stockport	42	17	12	13	56	45	63
Bristol Rovers	42	18	9	15	54	57	63
Wycombe	43	14	15	14	58	56	57
Bristol City	43	14	15	14	50	53	57
Walsall	41	15	11	15	50	42	56
Brentford	43	14	13	16	39	45	55
Bournemouth	43	15	9	19	49	68	54
Rotherham	42	12	14	16	47	57	50
York	41	12	13	16	55	64	49
Shrewsbury	41	12	13	16	52	57	49
Peterborough	42	12	12	18	55	59	48
Burnley	40	12	11	17	50	60	47
Carlisle	43	10	13	19	53	66	43
Swansea	43	9	14	20	40	74	41
Brighton	42	9	10	23	42	62	37
Hull	42	5	16	21	33	64	31

Third division

(23) Cardiff v Plymouth
(24) * Darlington v Bury
(25) Doncaster v Barnet
(26) Exeter v Colchester
(27) Fulham v Wigan
(28) Hartlepool v Lincoln
(29) Leyton Orient v Preston
(30) Mansfield v Hereford
(31) Northampton v Gillingham
(32) Rochdale v Scunthorpe
(33) Scarborough v Cambridge Utd
(34) Torquay v Chester

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	43	21	15	7	47	19	78
Preston	43	20	17	6	72	38	77
Bury	43	21	12	10	62	43	75
Wigan	43	20	10	13	60	51	70
Plymouth	43	19	12	12	63	49	69
Darlington	42	17	17	8	49	38	68
Barnet	43	17	15	11	59	41	66
Colchester	43	16	17	10	56	48	65
Hereford	41	17	14	10	55	41	65
Chester	42	16	15	11	67	48	63
Northampton	42	17	11	14	47	40	62
Exeter	43	13	16	14	43	48	55
Scunthorpe	42	14	12	16	57	54	54
Rochdale	43	14	12	17	56	57	54
Doncaster	42	14	10	18	44	56	52
Mansfield	42	10	20	12	49	58	50
Fulham	43	11	16	16	56	60	49
Lincoln	43	12	13	18	51	69	49
Cambridge Utd	43	12	12	19	56	69	48
Hartlepool	42	11	13	18	43	58	46
Leyton Orient	43	12	10	21	41	56	46
Cardiff	43	10	12	21	38	58	42
Scarborough	43	7	16	20	36	64	37
Torquay	42	5	13	24	29	73	28

Vauxhall Conference

(35) Altrincham v Hednesford
(—) Bath v Stevenage
(—) Bromsgrove v Kettering
(36) Dagenham and Red v Runcorn
(37) Farnborough v Telford
(—) Halifax v Woking
(—) Kidderminster v Gateshead
(38) Slough v Morecambe
(—) Stalybridge v Dover

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(39) Aberdeen v Hearts
(40) Celtic v Falkirk
(41) Hibernian v Raith
(42) Kilmarnock v Partick
(43) Motherwell v Rangers

First division

(44) Dundee v Clydebank
(45) Dunfermline v Dumbarton
(46) Greenock Morton v St Johnstone
(47) Hamilton v Dundee Utd
(48) St Mirren v Airdrie

Second division

(49) Berwick v Stranraer
(50) Clyde v Ayr
(51) East Fife v Forfar
(52) Montrose v Stirling
(53) Stenhousemuir v Queen Of South

Third division

(54) Alloa v Brechin
(55) Arbroath v Ross County
(56) Caley This v Albion
(57) East Stirling v Cowdenbeath
(58) Queen's Park v Livingston

FA UMBRO TROPHY. Semi-finals, second leg: Chorley (1) v Macclesfield (3), Northwich (2) v Hyde (1)

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton v Cheltenham, Cambridge City v Worcester, Gloucester v Rushden and Diamonds, Gravesend and Northfl v Halesowen, Hastings v Gresley, Merthyr v Crawley, Newport AFC v Baldock, Salisbury v Ilkeston, Stafford v Chelmsford, Sudbury Tn v Atherstone, VS Rugby v Dorchester. **Midland division.** Bedworth v King's Lynn, Bilston v Hinckley Town, Bury Town v Leicester Utd, Corby v RC Warwick, Evesham v Sutton Coldfield, Grantham v Solihull, Moor Green v Dudley, Nuneaton v Bridgnorth, Paget v Tamworth, Rothwell v Redditch, Stourbridge v Buckingham Town. **Southern division:** Ashford v Fleet, Bashley v Witney, Braintree v Waterlooville, Forest Green v Clevedon, Havant v Tonbridge Angels, Margate v Trowbridge, Newport IOW v Cinderford, Sittingbourne v Fareham, Weston-super-Mare v Fisher 93, Weymouth v Erith and Belvedere, Yate v Poole.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division. Aylesbury v Hayes, Boreham Wood v Bishop's Stortford, Bromley v Worthing, Carshalton v Enfield, Grays v Chertsey, Harrow v Walton and Hersham, Hitchin v Purfleet, Kingstonian v St Albans, Molesey v Hendon, Yeading v Dulwich, Yeovil v Sutton United. **First division:** Barking v Ruislip Manor, Basingstoke v Bognor Regis, Berkhamsted v Staines, Heybridge Swifts v Chesham, Maidenhead United v Barton, Oxford City v Leyton Pennant, Tooting and Mitcham v Billericay, Uxbridge v Aldershot Town, Wembley v Abingdon Town, Wokingham v Thame. **Second division:** Bedford v Metropolitan Police, Bracknell v Banstead, Chalfont St Peter v Canvey Island, Cheshunt v Witham, Collier Row v Ware, Croydon v Leatherhead, Dorking v Tilbury, Hampton v Edgware, Saffron Walden v Egham, Wivenhoe v Hungerford. **Third division:** Aveley v Northwood, Cove v Harlow, Epsom and Ewell v Hornchurch, Flackwell Heath v Southall, Harefield v Lewes, Hertford v Windsor and Eton, Horsham v Clapton, Tring v Camberley, Wealdstone v Leighton.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Colwyn Bay, Barrow v Buxton, Blyth Spartans v Knowsley, Droylsden v Bamber Bridge, Frickley v Leek, Gainsborough v Witton, Spennymoor v Marine, Winsford v Guiseley. **First division.** Bradford PA v Ashton United, Curzon Ashton v Lancaster, Eastwood Town v Gretna, Fleetwood v Great Harwood, Harrogate Town v Warrington, Leigh v Radcliffe, Netherfield v Congleton, Whitley Bay v Alfreton, Workington v Atherton LR, Worksop v Farsley Celtic.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Afan Lido, Bangor City v Caersws, Barry v Holywell (2.30), Briton Ferry v Ebbw Vale, Cemaes Bay v Llansantffraid, Carmarthen v Porthmadog, Inter Cardiff v Connah's Quay, Newtown v Llanelli (2.30), Ton Pentre v Rhyl.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE. First division: Bedlington Terriers v Whitby, Chester-le-Street v Murton, Consett v Billingham, Crook v Seaham Red Star, Dunston Federation v Durham, Ferryhill v Guisborough, Stockton v West Auckland, Tow Law v RTM Newcastle.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v Eton Manor, Brentwood v Great Wakering, Concord v Basildon U. **Premier Division Cup Final:** Romford v Southend Manor.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE. Premier division: Amersham v Croydon, Barkingside v Cockfosters, Hanwell v Brook House, Hillingdon Boro v St Margaretsbury, Waltham Abbey v Corinthian-Casuals.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division. Ashford v Hartley Wintney, Bedfont v Viking Sports, Chipstead v Feltham, Cobham v Peppard, Cranleigh v Horley, Netherne v Ash, Reading v DCA Basingstoke, Sandhurst v Godalming and Guildford, Walton Casuals v Merstham.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division. Arlesey Town v Hatfield, Milton Keynes v Biggleswade, Buckingham Athletic v Brache Sparta, Royston v Dunstable, Langford v Harpenden, Toddington v Hoddesdon, London Colney v Letchworth, Shillington v Welwyn Garden.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Bridport, Frome v Elmore, Odd Down v Tiverton, Mangotsfield v Backwell, Taunton v Brislington, Torrington v Calne.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division. Clacton v Fakenham, Great Yarmouth v Tiptree, Hadleigh U v Haverhill, Halstead v March, Lowestoft v Wisbech, Soham v Felixstowe P and T, Stowmarket v Cornard, Sudbury v Diss, Wroxham v Harwich and Parkeston.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division. Aerostructures v Bemerton Heath, Totton v Petersfield, Andover v Whitchurch, Bournemouth v B.A.T., Brockenhurst v Cowes Sports, Downton v Lymington, Gosport v Christchurch, Portsmouth v East Cowes; Swanage and Herston v Eastleigh.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Stamco, Crowborough v Wick; Hassocks v Langney Sports; Horsham YMCA v Hailsham, Pagham v Eastbourne Town, Peacehaven and Telscombe v Three Bridges, Portfield v Burgess Hill; Shoreham v Whitehawk.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE. First division: Cray v Chatham, Dartford v Folkestone Invicta, Furness v Canterbury, Greenwich v Whitstable, Herne Bay v Sheppey, Ramsgate v Corinthian, Tunbridge Wells v Faversham.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon United v Swindon Supermarine, Bicester v Highworth, Brackley v Endsleigh, Cirencester v Almondsbury, Fairford v North Leigh, Lambourn Sports v Tuffley.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division. Cradley Town v Bloxwich S, Darlaston v Wednesfield, Lichfield C v Hill Top R, Ludlow T v Stourport S, Lye Town v Stafford T, Malvern T v Brierley Hill T, Tividale v Walsall Wood, Westfields v Ettingshall HT.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE. Premier division. Boston v Stotfold; Cogenhoe v Holbeach, Newport Pagnell v St Neots, Northampton Sp v Raunds, Potton v Long Buckby; Spalding Utd v Bourne, Wellingborough v Stamford, Wootton v Eynesbury.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division. Armthorpe W v Glasshoughton W, Belper Town v Pickering, Brigg T v Hatfield Main, Goole v Ossett Town, Hallam v Sheffield, Liversedge v Ashfield, Maltby M W v Denaby, North Ferriby v Thackley, Ossett Albion v Arnold, Stocksbridge P S v Hucknall.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Clitheroe v Chadderton, Flixton v Eastwood H, Kidsgrove v Blackpool Rovers, Nantwich v Burscough, Newcastle Town v Glossop North End, Penrith v Mossley, Prescot v Holker Old Boys, Rossendale v Bootle, Skelmersdale v Darwen, Trafford v St Helens.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Southampton, Ipswich v Wimbledon (at Portman Road).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Man Utd v Nottm Forest (2.0).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Bangor, Cliftonville v Crusaders, Glentoran v Linfield, Portadown v Glenavon.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Galway v Bohemians (7.0).

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v Watford, Charlton Ath v Southend, Millwall v Chelsea, Norwich v Gillingham, West Ham v Tottenham Hotspur.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Cholmeleians v Malvernians, Etonians v Foresters; Lancing v Carthusians. **First division:** Brentwoods v Wykehamists; Haileyburians v Wellingburians.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: O Hamptonians v O Tenisonians. **Senior first division:** O Manorians v O Tenisonians Res; O Tiffinians v Chertsey; Phoenix v Shene.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Civil Service v West Wickham, East Barnet OG v South Bank; New Association v Winchmore Hill; Norsemen v O Actonians.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Parkfield v Hale End Ath; St Mary's Coll v Witan; Ulysses v Nottsborough. **Senior two:** City of London v Honourable Artillery Co, O Bealonians v Wandsworth Bor, O Finchleians v Corinthian Cas, O Woodhouseians v Mill Hill Village.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National League: Arsenal v Wolverhampton, Everton v Millwall Lionesses.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Southern Counties Cup semi-final: Gloucestershire v Hackney (12.0). **Manchester Evening News Cup final:** Manchester v Bury. **London Sun Shield, semi-final.** West London v Islington.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

Bristol v Saracens
Orrell v Bath
(at Central Park, Wigan, 2.15)
Wasps v West Hartlepool

Second division

Wakefield v Northampton

CIS county championship
Final

Gloucestershire v Warwickshire
(at Twickenham).

CIS under-21 county championship
Final

East Midlands v Yorkshire
(at Twickenham, 12.30)

CIS under-21 county championship
Final

East Midlands v Yorkshire
(at Twickenham, 12.30)

Heineken League
First division

Aberavon v Abertillery (2.30)
Cardiff v Newbridge (2.30)
Ebbw Vale v Newport (2.30)
Llanelli v Pontypridd (2.30)
Swansea v Neath (2.30)
Treorchy v Bridgend (2.30)

Second division

Abercynon v Pontypool (2.30)
Caerphilly v Tenby Utd (2.30)
Cross Keys v Bonymaen (2.30)
Llanharan v Llandovery (2.30)
Maesteg v South Wales Police (2.30)
Ystradgynlais v Dunvant (2.30)

THIRD DIVISION: Blaina v Cardiff Inst; Glamorgan Wndrs v Kenfig Hill, Narberth v Mountain Ash, Penarth v Blackwood, Pyle v Tondu, Tredegar v Builth Wells

Insurance Corporation League
First division

Blackrock College v Instonians (2.30)
Cork Constitution v Old Belvedere (2.30)
Garryowen v St Mary's College (2.30)
Lansdowne v Ballymena (2.30)
Young Munster v Old Wesley (2.30)

Second division

Bective Rangers v Malone (2.30)
Clontarf v NIFC (2.30)
Greystones v Terenure Coll (2.30)

TENNENTS 1556 BOWL: Quarter-final: Hillhead-Jordanhill v Ayr.

Club matches

Camborne v Launceston
Clifton v Lichfield
Coventry v Moseley
Harrogate v Broughton Park
Havant v Rosslyn Park
Henley v Leamington
Leeds v Wharfedale
Liverpool St Helens v Morley
London Irish v Sale
Lydney v Bridgwater
Newcastle Gosforth v Kendal
Plymouth v Brixham
Preston G'pers v Birkenhead Park
Reading v High Wycombe
Redruth v Taunton
Rotherham v York
Sandal v New Brighton
Sheffield v Macclesfield
Stourbridge v Hereford C
Tabard v Richmond
Walsall v Burton
Weston-super-Mare v Stoke
Worcester v Stroud C

YOUTH INTERNATIONAL: England v France (at Chester)

UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL: Scotland v Wales (at Millbrae, Ayr)

UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL: Scotland v Wales (at Millbrae, Ayr, 1.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League

Castleford v Oldham (6.0)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Leigh Miners Welfare v Saddleworth (2.30), Millom v Hemel Hempstead (2.30); West Hull v Mayfield (2.30), Wigan St Patricks v Haworth (2.30).

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Semi-finals: Ellenborough v Woolston (2.30), Wigan St Judes v Skirlaugh (2.30)

CRICKET

Tetley's Shield
11.0, first day of four
CHELMSFORD: England A v The Rest

County match
11.0, final day of three
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Yorkshire

University matches
11.30 to 6.30, first day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Derbyshire
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Middlesex

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS (at Milton Keynes): Old Loughtonians v Blackburn (2.0), Crimson Ramblers v West Witney (4.0), Cheltenham v Old Loughtonians (6.0)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Men's English indoor championships (Melton Mowbray).

BOXING: British welterweight championship: Joe Calzaghe (Wales, holder) v Mark Delaney (West Ham) (Brentwood).

CYCLING. Welsh CA Ten miles (First of five, Raglan, 2.0). West Suffolk Ten miles (Higham, 2.30)

SNOOKER: Embassy World Championship (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Coventry v Belle Vue (7.30); Eastbourne v Ipswich (7.30), Swindon v Wolverhampton (7.30). Speedway Star Cup: First round, second leg: Bradford v Sheffield (7.30)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

Sunderland v Stoke

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE SIX-A-SIDE CHAMPIONSHIPS (Indoor Arena, Birmingham)

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE. First division. West Bromwich v Leeds (2.0)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cardiff v Caernarfon

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Cork v Drogheda (2.45), Shamrock v Derry (3.15), UCD v Athlone (3.15)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National league: Arsenal v Villa Aztecs, Everton v Millwall Lionesses, Liverpool FC Ladies v Doncaster Belles

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division. Langford v Huddersfield, Tranmere v Garswood St Helens. **Southern division.** Oxford Utd v Southampton Saints

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Sanyo Cup

Leicester v World XV
(at Twickenham)

Tennents 1556 Cup
Quarter-finals

Glasgow Acads v Melrose
Hawick v Preston Lodge
Heriot's FP v Watsonians
Kilmarnock v Dundee HSFP

TENNENTS 1556 BOWL: Quarter-finals: Annan v Edinburgh Wdrs, Cartha Q P v Selkirk, Peebles v Edinburgh Acads.

TENNENTS 1556 SHIELD: Quarter-finals: Currie v Kelso, Glasgow Southern v Kirkcaldy, Gordonians v Glenrothes, West of Scotland v Stirling County

Insurance Corporation League
Second division

Sunday's Well v Old Crescent (2.30)
Wanderers v Dolphin (2.30)

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUP: Final: Staines v O Merchant Taylors (at Harlequins, 1.0)

NORTH MIDLANDS COUNTY CUP: Final: Worcester v Hereford (at Moseley)

EAST MIDLANDS COUNTY CUP: Final: Kettering v Ampthill (at Kettering)

ALAN GRIMSDELL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CUP Final. Aylesbury v Marlow (at Aylesbury)

WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Final: Richmond v Saracens (at Staines RFC)

WOMEN'S STUDENT CUP: Final. Loughborough v Brunel College (at Staines RFC, 1.0)

CRICKET

Tetley's Shield
11.0 second day of four
CHELMSFORD: England A v The Rest

University match
11.30 to 6.30, second day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Derbyshire

County match
2.0 40 overs
OLD TRAFFORD. Lancashire v Yorkshire

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Super League

Halifax v St Helens (6.0)
Leeds v Sheffield
London v Workington
Warrington v Paris

First division

Batley v Huddersfield (5.30)
Hull v Widnes (3.15)
Rochdale v Dewsbury
Wakefield v Salford (3.30)
Whitehaven v Featherstone (3.30)

Second division

Carlisle v Bramley
Chorley v Hull K R
Hunslet v York (3.30)
Leigh v Prescot
South Wales v Doncaster
(at Talbot Athletic Ground, 6.0)
Swinton v Barrow (6.30)

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS (at Milton Keynes) West Witney v Old Loughtonians (10.0), Cheltenham v Crimson Ramblers (12.0), Blackburn v West Witney (2.0)

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League: Scottish Claymores v Barcelona (Murrayfield, 3.0)

ATHLETICS. Flora London Marathon

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Championship play-offs: Quarter-finals, third leg: Leopards v Manchester (5.0)

BOWLS. Men's English indoor championships (Melton Mowbray)

CYCLING: Bath Roa 50 miles (Bradfield, 8.0); **Welwyn-Hatfield 105 miles Grand Prix** (10.0)

MOTOR SPORT. RAC Touring Car championship (Brands Hatch)

SNOOKER. Embassy World Championship (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield)

TENNIS. LTA women's satellite tournament (Edinburgh)

هدايا من الاهل

African queens of the road ready to rule in London

Kimaiyo: highly-rated

David Powell discovers that Kenya's women runners are no longer content to let the men have all the glory

ONE of the last havens for distance runners, where they have felt safe from the tide of Kenyan success, is about to be stormed. The women's section of the London Marathon has never had a Kenyan woman in the top ten, but three will be seeking to make their mark tomorrow, emphasising a fundamental change in their society's attitude towards women who run.

Kenyan women are increasingly mirroring the achievements of their all-conquering men. Their team victory at the world cross-country championships last month was their fifth in six years; on the track they have been prominent in the last three world championships, and Tegla Loroupe has won the New York City Marathon for the past two years.

"The girl most likely to shock at this year's marathon," was how David Bedford, the elite race director, introduced Hellen Kimaiyo to the press this week. The two other Kenyans are Angelina Kanana and Joyce Chepchumba. Kanana set a national record of 2hr 27min 41sec when finishing second in Berlin last autumn. Chepchumba is, according to her manager, Volker Wagner, ready to run "at least as fast as 2hr 27min". No woman has recorded quicker than 2hr 27min since 1991.

"First of all she likes running, but one race brings more money than a year's income in Kenya," Wagner said. Once it was the case that Kenyan women would be tied to the home, especially mothers like Kimaiyo and Chepchumba, but now the men see them as tickets to wealth. "Joyce had a boyfriend who was looking for someone in sport," Wagner added. "I told her she had to be careful because these women are wanted because they are rich."

Even before she won in New York for the first time, Loroupe could afford a house. "If she was not a runner, she would have to work for 40 years to buy her first house," Wagner said. "Very few Kenyan women have a chance to buy their own home." Chepchumba has also purchased property out of her prize-money and the winner's purse of $55,000 (about £36,600) plus a $10,000 bonus for times of sub 2hr 28min tomorrow, are powerful incentives for her to run as quickly as her manager suggests she should. She recorded 2hr 33min 51sec in New York last November without training specifically for the marathon. This time she has. She has prepared with Loroupe, who was second in the Boston Marathon on Monday in 2hr 28min 37sec. "Joyce did the same training as Tegla," Wagner said, which is why he is confident she is a contender to win in London.

Chepchumba and Kimaiyo are employed by the Kenyan Post Office — the place to work if you want to develop from a promising runner into a successful one. "If they represent the company in events at home, they are given leave to compete in Europe," Wagner said.

Kimaiyo brings a best half-marathon time of 69min 13sec to her first marathon, quick enough to indicate that "maybe", as she put it, she has a chance of winning. She has left her husband at home in Nairobi in charge of their two children. "This is my part-time job and I can do it because of the understanding of my husband," she said. "He realises that, when I run, it benefits the whole family. My husband encourages me, which is why I continue working hard in training."

Kimaiyo and Chepchumba, both from the Rift Valley, are close friends and, to begin with at least, they will stick close to each other tomorrow. Kimaiyo will use her compatriot's greater experience to measure her pace. "We used to believe that only the men could run fast," Kimaiyo said. Tomorrow, London will see for itself how times have changed.

Maynard's sense of adventure dampened

By Pat Gibson

FENNER'S (final day of three): Cambridge University drew with Glamorgan

MATTHEW MAYNARD, the new Glamorgan captain, yesterday settled for four centuries in the match, including one for himself, instead of trying to manufacture a finish after drizzle had delayed the start of the final day until 20 minutes after lunch.

Cambridge University understood his predicament. They were itching for a run-chase but they knew that it was too much to expect on a pitch on which their bowlers took only two wickets while conceding 510 runs in the two Glamorgan innings.

Maynard would have liked to be more positive but felt the weather had the final word. "If we had had a full day's play, I would have given them a 3½-hour chase," he said. "As it was, I thought it was important for our batsmen to have a knock because we haven't been able to get outside since our pre-season trip to Pretoria."

Steve Elworthy scored a career-best 88 to lead a spirited Lancashire recovery against Yorkshire at Old Trafford yesterday. Lancashire had slumped to 67 for six when Elworthy, 31, who faced 172 balls and hit 11 fours, guided them to 212 all out with the support of Warren Hegg (27) and Richard Green, reaching his 50 with a six. Yorkshire were 64 for three in reply at the close.

He also wanted them to get some runs under their belts. None of them had made a hundred in South Africa, so centuries for Morris and Hemp in the first innings, Maynard himself and James in the second, were just what was required.

The Cambridge bowling is nothing like as strong as their batting but, like Morris and Hemp before them, Maynard and James played well. Maynard, 66 overnight, wasted no time in completing his hundred, which came in two hours off 92 balls with a six and 12 fours. He then retired with spasms in his lower back that prevented him from taking the field later and must be a cause for concern in view of his responsibilities this season.

James, meanwhile, was accelerating towards his second century against his old university. It took him more than three hours and contained only eight fours but his second 50 came at a run a ball as he began to rediscover the momentum that brought him more than 1,000 runs in limited-overs cricket last year.

There was just time for House to provide Cambridge with their only wicket of the day with a well-judged running catch to dismiss Cottey off Jones before Maynard declared at 248 for one — 286 ahead with only 80 minutes left.

The rest was an anti-climax for the University batsmen. Ragnauth was leg-before pulling at Thomas. Smith, a centurion in the first innings, was caught behind off Watkin and Singh, having demonstrated his flair with four successive boundaries, was brilliantly caught by the substitute, Evans, before they closed at 32 for three.

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 262 for 1 dec (H Morris 126 not out, D L Hemp 103 not out)

Second Innings

S P James not out	102
*M P Maynard retired hurt	100
P A Cottey c House b Jones	21
R D B Croft not out	6
Extras (lb 5, w 2, nb 12)	19
Total (1 wkt dec)	248

FALL OF WICKET: 1-224.

BOWLING: Haste 13-1-62-0; Moffat 13-2-64-0; Whittall 7-0-30-0; How 5-1-46-0. House 6-0-29-0; Jones 7-1-12-1

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings 225 for 3 dec (E T Smith 101, A Singh 52 not out)

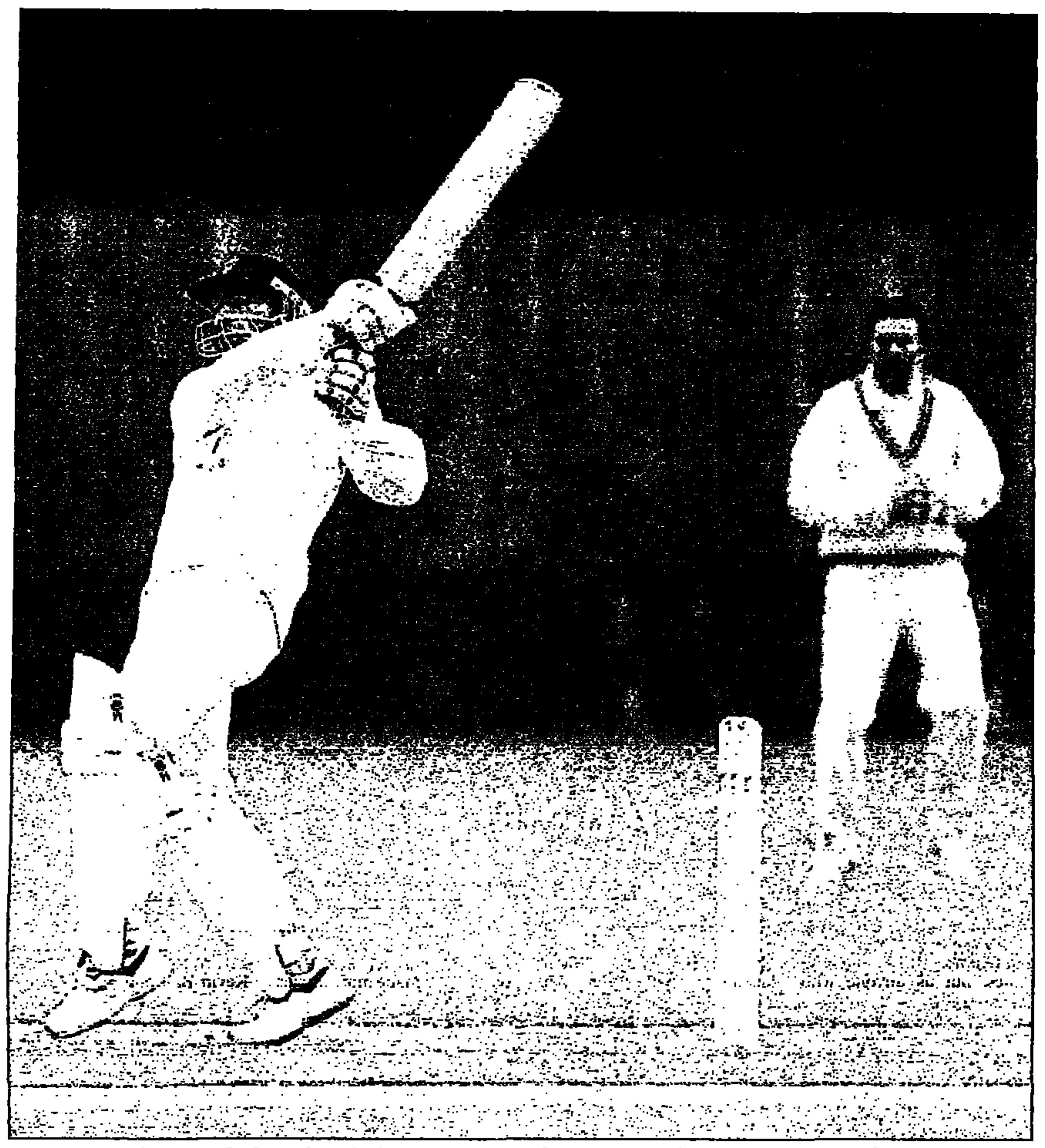
Second Innings

R T Ragnauth lbw b Thomas	4
E T Smith c Metson b Hemp	8
A Singh c sub b Watkin	16
*R Q Cake not out	0
W J House not out	3
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (3 wkts)	32

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-26, 3-29

BOWLING. Watkin 4-1-10-1; Thomas 3-0-16-1; Croft 4-2-2-0; Hemp 3-1-3-1

Umpires: R A White and J W Lloyds


Maynard pulls to the boundary during his century at Fenner's yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

West Indies pace floors New Zealand

WEST Indies had much the better of the opening morning of the first Test match in Bridgetown yesterday, reducing the visitors to 96 for five by lunch.

New Zealand, who were six for three after half an hour, enjoyed something of a recovery thanks to an aggressive fourth-wicket stand of 80 between Nathan Astle and Adam Parore, before Patterson Thompson, making his Test debut on his home ground, took two quick wickets.

Put in to bat, New Zealand lost both openers with the score on two. Curtly Ambrose made the breakthrough, removing Craig Spearman without scoring by way of a wicketkeeper's catch. Four balls later, Ambrose's new-ball partner, Courtney Walsh, struck. Roger Twose, the former Warwickshire batsman, was caught by Robert Samuels, the other newcomer in the West Indies side, at third slip for two.

In his next over, Walsh sent back the dangerous Stephen Fleming. The 23-year-old left-hander's flick off his pads picked out Chanderpaul around the corner at backward short leg.

Astle was the principal aggressor as New Zealand fought back, taking particularly to the bowling of the burly Thompson. Astle, who had been hit on the chin in the opening match of the tour by the fast bowler, lashed him for four fours in his opening over. Thompson, who delivered 12 no-balls all told, was rested after his first two overs had cost 25 runs.

But it was the 24-year-old Barbadian who broke the partnership. Switched to the South End, Thompson forced Astle to edge to the wicketkeeper. Astle made 54, his highest Test score. He was at the crease for an hour and 11 minutes, faced 52 balls and hit ten fours.

In the same over, Thompson also removed Chris Harris for nought. Harris was unlucky to be given out as the ball seemed to hit his forearm rather than the bat or gloves on its way through to Brian Lara at first slip.

Parore was unbeaten with 23 at the break, having been in for just over an hour and a half. He had hit five fours and faced 59 balls. Walsh's two wickets came at a cost of ten runs from seven overs; Thompson, by contrast, had conceded 39 runs from his four overs.

S Africans find cup consolation in desert

SOUTH AFRICA, finding some consolation for their uncharacteristically meek exit from the cricket World Cup, won the Sharjah Cup yesterday, defeating India by 38 runs in the final of a competition that they dominated from start to finish.

Having subsided to a World Cup quarter-final defeat at the hands of the West Indies in March, when their performances in the round-robin stage — and against England shortly before that — had marked them out as potential winners, they were pleased to find material proof of their one-day credentials in the United Arab Emirates.

"We have achieved almost all the goals we set for this season, except the big one [the World Cup]," Hansie Cronje, their captain, said. "The wicket here wasn't easy to bowl at, but full marks to our bowlers who all did tremendous jobs."

It was, however, a batsman, Gary Kirsten, who played the most important role, scoring 115. Able support from an unlikely source, Pat Symcox, and a more predictable one, Brian McMillan, enabled South Africa to reach a formidable 287-5.

The India openers, Vikram Rathore and Sachin Tendulkar, gave their side an encouraging start, but four run-outs accounted for batsmen who appeared to be capable of maintaining the required momentum.

SOUTH AFRICA

G Kirsten not out	115
A C Hudson c Azharuddin b Srinath	0
D J Cullinan b Prasad	2
P L Symcox c Jadeja b Raju	61
*W J Cronje c Rathore b Kumble	25
D N Crookes c Rathore b Kumble	26
B M McMillan not out	37
Extras (lb 5, w 16)	21
Total (5 wkts, 50 overs)	287

C R Matthews, †D J Richardson, S M Pollock and P S de Villiers did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-20, 3-115, 4-175, 5-227

BOWLING: Srinath 10-1-51-1; Prasad 10-0-50-1, Tendulkar 7-0-51-0, Kumble 10-1-42-2, Raju 9-0-70-1, Jadeja 4-0-18-0

INDIA

V S Rathore c Richardson b Matthews	23
S R Tendulkar run out	57
A Kumble run out	10
N S Sidhu c Matthews b Cronje	26
S V Manjrekar run out	41
*M Azharuddin run out	39
A D Jadeja c Cullinan b McMillan	2
J Srinath c Richardson b de Villiers	10
†N R Mongia c and b Pollock	23
B K V Prasad not out	5
S L V Raju not out	0
Extras (lb 10, w 1, nb 2)	13
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	249

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-59, 2-78, 3-112, 4-130, 5-204, 6-208, 7-209, 8-243, 9-249

BOWLING: de Villiers 10-0-42-1, Pollock 10-0-57-1; McMillan 10-0-48-1; Matthews 10-1-46-1; Symcox 6-0-23-0; Cronje 4-0-23-1

Man of the match and tournament: G Kirsten.

Umpires B C Cooray (Sri Lanka) and M J Kitchen (England)

IN BRIEF

Hickeys at home beat Piggotts to win final

MICHAEL HICKEY and his son, Mark, won the Father and Son golf tournament at their home club, West Hill, Surrey, yesterday. They beat the Piggotts, of Littlehampton and Perivale, in the final by two and one, having removed the strong favourites, Robbie and Mark James, of Walton Heath, in the semi-finals.

Three up at the 6th against the Piggotts, who were conceding four shots, the Hickeys fell away badly around the turn. Then Michael Hickey steadied the ship by winning the 13th and halving the 14th. Thereafter it was thrust and counter-thrust and three sterling halves in par figures saw the Hickeys home.

Calzaghe test

Boxing: Joe Calzaghe defends his British super-middleweight title against Mark Delaney, of West Ham, at Brentwood tonight. Calzaghe, 24, from Newbridge, Gwent, is unbeaten as a professional, but his first 15 opponents did not test him greatly. He was less impressive, despite beating Stephen Wilson to win the British title.

Delaney, 24, the World Boxing Organisation intercontinental champion, also has an unbeaten record, having won all his 21 contests.

Double trouble

Badminton: Joanne Wright and Julie Bradbury lost 15-12, 10-15, 15-4 to the Danish No 3 seeds, Marlene Thomsen and Lisbet Stuer-Lauridsen, in the semi-finals of the European championship yesterday, casting doubts on their prospects for a medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Bradbury and Simon Archer, seeded to win the mixed doubles title, then lost the final 18-16, 15-2 to the Danish No 2 seeds, Michael Sogaard and Rikke Olsen.

Arsenal entertain!

Football: Arsenal Ladies entertain Wolves today and Villa Aztecs tomorrow hoping to consolidate their position in second place behind Doncaster Belles in the national league. Wolves are searching for their first point of the season, while Villa need to win and hope Ilkestone Town gain no points from their next two games if they, too, are to avoid relegation.

ITC

The Times cricket game returns this summer in an exciting new format and with a first prize of £10,000.
Full details of how to play Interactive Team Cricket will be published in a 16-page guide on Monday.
Make sure of your copy of *The Times*,
the paper for cricket.

Marathon man juggles many records

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

This column has never failed to salute great men and women when it comes across them, and so let us celebrate this week the amazing Terry Cole, perhaps the most remarkable man that Walthamstow has produced. Cole, 37, runs in the Flora London Marathon tomorrow, but so common a form of madness as mere running is not for Cole. Cole's is a high and lonely destiny. He is seeking to break the world record of 3hr 22min 58sec.

You may argue that the world best for a marathon is actually 2hr 06min 50sec, but that is the record for men of small ambition who merely run all the way. Cole has his sights on the world marathon three-ball juggling record, which is held by a Jamaican, Asheretia Foreman.

Breaking a world record will not be a new departure for Cole. He already holds four of them. He is the world record-holder for balancing pint beer glasses on his chin — 50 of them. He holds the world record for balancing (slightly sycophantically, I thought) copies of the *Guinness Book of Records* on his chin, with 28. He has the world record for one-arm press-ups, this being 8,335 in five hours, all on his right arm. Finally, he has the world record for steps onto a 16-inch bench with 2,362.

training for tomorrow includes 11 hours and four minutes of continuous three-ball juggling without dropping one. Oh, and he once dribbled a basketball for 90 miles, but I do not think that was a record attempt; that was just something you do in your spare time.

Reds alert

Marge Schott, old friend of this column and owner of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team, has been at it again. An umpire died during the Reds' first home game of the season. The game was stopped at once, the supporters went home. Schott went on record as blaming the press for the cancellation and saying that she "felt cheated". After inevitable outrage at this, Schott made amends the following day by walking onto the field — naturally with her St Bernard, Schottzie II — to apologise, just as the first pitch was about to be thrown. Once more, sensibilities were outraged. The woman has a

Risky business

A press release reaches me from the British Police rugby league team, which is to tour Australia in June and take part in the police World Cup final in Sydney. I pass on this information at considerable personal risk, but I am like that. For the release concludes: "The information contained in this fax is confidential and intended only for the person named. Any unauthorised dissemination or disclosure of its contents or copying of this fax and the use or disclosure of its contents is strictly prohibited. Please notify immediately by telephone if this fax has been sent to you in error." Ooh-er.

So, received our fax did you!

Pitch battle

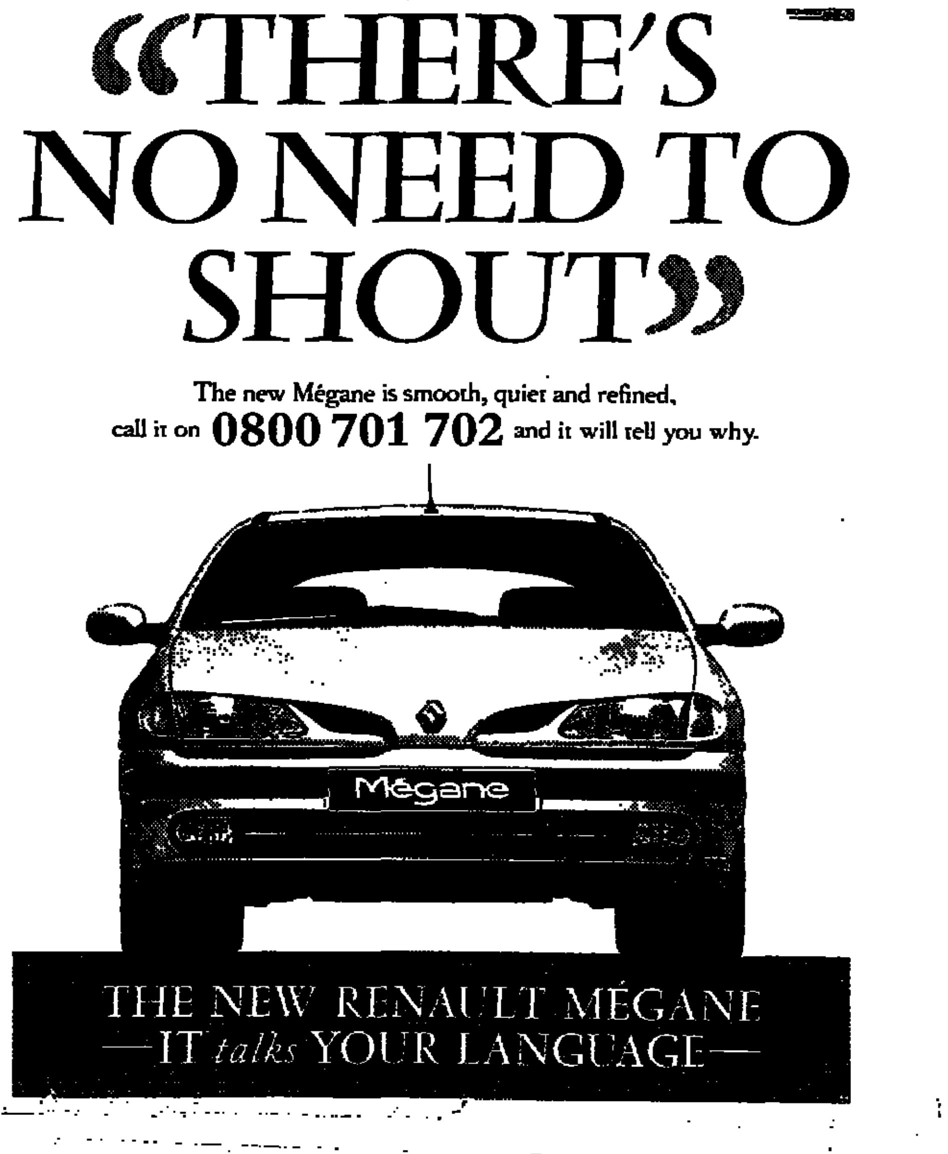
More news from the lawcourts of the United States, where Franz Kafka walks ever more boldly through the world of sport. Diane Hearn, of Pace, Florida, is sueing Terry Pendleton, the baseball player, a hitter formerly with the Atlanta Braves, now with the Florida Marlins, for $50,000 (about £33,300). She claims that when the Braves were playing at Philadelphia in 1993, Pendleton threw a ball into the stands: a routine goodwill gesture. The ball landed under Hearn's seat. In the scramble for the ball, she claims that she suffered "multiple contusions about the head, body, back and limbs; multiple internal and external injuries to the back and neck resulting in injuries to muscles, nerves, discs, bones and ligaments". She is also sueing the Braves. Her husband is sueing as well, on the grounds that he has been "deprived of the love, affection and consortium of his wife". I will never again

reports that a football club is to be bought by "a consortium".

Woman rules

Australia has been split down the middle. A woman — you know, not a *bloke* — has been appointed to a disciplinary tribunal of the sport of Australian No Rules Football. Australia is a bit funny about women, and about women in sport — like all other countries — so naturally the place is in a state of outrage. The woman in question is Elaine Canty, who will be the only woman on the nine-person panel; from this, judges for disciplinary matters are selected in threes. "I could use all the clichés about obstetricians not having had babies and judges not having broken the law," Canty said. She added that it was "a terrific gesture" and that she could smell "a token tart's job from a mile off".

Others were less sanguine. Gareth Andrews, a former player with mighty Geelong, summed matters up with all the acuteness of which an Aussie Rules footballer is capable. "I suspect that women love the rawness. They love the manliness. They love the physicality . . . they talk about it the next day just as much as the blokes do — maybe more. They love being outsiders looking in."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Cecil's filly passes Newbury trial with flying colours

Bosra Sham tightens classic grip

By Julian Muscat

BOSRA SHAM came through where Alhaarth faltered when she ran away with the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury yesterday to strengthen her grip on the 1,000 Guineas.

It was a thoroughly professional performance from Bosra Sham, who ensured she will arive at Newmarket as the odds-on favourite for the fourth time in as many career outings. She has now won her races by a combined total of 13 lengths, and it will take an exceptional horse to lower her colours in the fillies' classic on May 5.

No horse has yet finished within 3½ lengths of her, and none looked likely to yesterday from the moment Pat Eddery shook her from her lethargy to dismiss her nearest pursuer, the 66-1 chance Keepers Dawn, by six lengths. Her opponents were an unexceptional lot: Najiya, her principal opponent, pulled her way out of contention. But that detail aside, it was impossible to fault Bosra Sham.

Remarkably, Henry Cecil, her trainer, suggested Bosra Sham was some way from her peak. "She will be a lot better for the race," he said. "She hasn't quite come in her coat. I've been trying to hold it through the cold weather and she should look very well come the Guineas."

Yet Cecil, ever the realist, warned that the outcome was not a formality. "Classic races take a lot of winning. We must hope the luck goes our way, but I wouldn't swap her for anything else in the race."

If Cecil recognised the pitfalls, Eddery's enthusiasm was more obvious. The 1,000 Guineas is a peculiar omission from Eddery's catalogue of major successes, but the jockey clearly feels Bosra Sham will rectify matters. "This is the best chance I've had of winning the race," he said. "I can't find a chink in her armour and the more I ride her, the more I like her."

So confident is Eddery that he dismissed the threat of Blue Duster in two memorable sentences. "Blue Duster is very fast but I'd be confident of beating her over six furlongs. Mine has so much speed yet she is ideally suited by a mile." Indeed, just about the only glimmer afforded connections of Bosra Sham's opponents is that the filly, a full-sister to the French classic winner, Hector Protector, has excelled on easy ground.

Cecil is unperturbed by the likely fast surface at Newmarket. And Bosra Sham's action does not highlight any cause for concern — she won her maiden on good to firm ground. Although she has it to prove under such conditions, she is unquestionably the one to beat.

Bosra Sham, at 530,000 guineas the top-priced yearling sold in Europe in 1994, looks almost certain to miss the Oaks and has been scratched from the betting by William Hill, although Eddery believes Bosra Sham's relaxed attitude may help her get further than a mile.

Bosra Sham's victory consolidated Cecil's gains at the Craven meeting at Newmarket earlier in the week. But the master of Warren Place suffered a reversal in the Peter Smith Memorial Maiden Stakes for three-year-olds when his Set Adrift, backed down to favouritism, was emphatically beaten by Air Quest, a fellow debutant, trained by Roger Charlton.

Charlton landed this race six years ago with Air Quest's full-brother, Quest For Fame, who, of course, went on to triumph in the Derby. But the trainer talked down such prospects for Air Quest, a taller, less mature specimen than his illustrious relation. This rain-softened ground proved ideal for Air Quest, who looks a resolute galloper.

Earlier, Peter Chapple-Hyam introduced a precocious juvenile in the shape of Daylight In Dubai, who showed too much resolution for Granny's Pet in the closing stages of the Beckhampton Maiden Stakes. Owned by Peter Savill, Daylight In Dubai is bound for Royal Ascot.

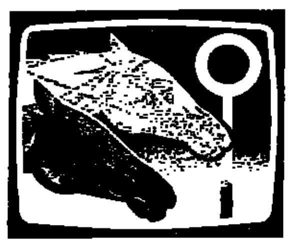
RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CLAN BEN
(3.30 Newbury)
Next best: Penny A Day
(4.40 Ayr)

JULIAN HERBERT

Eddery can afford to look over his shoulder as Bosra Sham cruises home at Newbury.

Bright Water is clear choice



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

NEWBURY
BBC1

2.00: Henry Cecil has won previous runnings of this race with Old Vic and Belmez and it will be something of a surprise if **Bright Water** does not oblige for the in-form trainer. Well regarded at home, he produced high-level maiden form when winning his only start last term and the Derby entrant should relish this trip. Mystic Knight is also entered for the Epsom classic and looks more of a threat than Maiden Castle.

2.30: The ground will be perfect for **Moonax**, and the 1994 St Leger winner has won first time out for the past two seasons. Commoner, narrowly defeated in the September Stakes at Kempton, looks set for another good season.

3.00: Woodhorough, just below the very best last year and beaten a neck by Danehill Dancer in Ireland, has delighted Peter Chapple-Hyam with his work, but in a tricky heat I just prefer **Tagula**. Winner of the group one Prix Morny last year, he was below his best after a rushed preparation for the Dewhurst and can show that form to be wrong today.

3.30: A low draw is invariably an advantage here and **Clan Ben** stands out in stall six. Twice a winner over a mile last term, he was considered good enough by Cecil to run in listed company on his final start last term. This is only the seventh race of his career so there should be further improvement to come. Wilcuma is fairly treated but normally needs his first few runs and Jawaal looks a bigger threat.

AYR
CHANNEL 4

2.55: Addington Boy successfully stepped up in class to take the Mildmay Novices' Chase at Aintree last time. While he drops back in trip, **Arctic Kinsman**, second in the Arkle Chase and winner of a decent Aintree handicap, moves up from two miles and that should suit this potentially top-class chaser. He is just preferred to the Cathcart Chase winner, Challenger Du Luc.

3.25: **Alderbrook** can gain compensation for his Champion Hurdle defeat. Although Pridwell is 9lb better off after finishing just over eight lengths behind my selection at the Festival, it will be a surprise if the form is reversed. Hotel Minella ran well below form at the Festival but if the Irish raider returns to his best, he could prove the danger.

4.05: This marathon is won just as often by horses out of the handicap as by those running off their proper mark and **Morgans Harbour** can confirm the trend. He only made his seasonal reappearance at Aintree, where he was runner-up to All For Luck, and should appreciate this extended four miles. General Wolfe is one for the short-list along with Lo Stregone, who was forced to miss the Grand National at Aintree because of illness.

4.40: **Penny A Day** looks even better over hurdles than on the Flat and Mary Reveley's dual purpose horse looks to have a very fair mark on his handicap debut. He will not lack for fitness having had two spins on the Flat since winning a valuable race at Kelso seven weeks ago.

Richard Evans

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SCOTTISH GRAND NATIONAL
4 miles 1 furlong, (Handicap), Ayr 4.05pm, Live on CH4 TV.

3/1	General Wolfe	25/1	Merry Master
5/1	Morgans Harbour	25/1	Moorcroft Boy
11/2	Lo Stregone	33/1	Ceilidh Boy
10/1	Tartan Tyrant	50/1	Abercromby Chief
10/1	Toogood To Be True	150/1	Banntown Bill
11/1	Willsford	150/1	Boarding School
14/1	Couldn't Be Better	150/1	Majic Rain
14/1	Sir Peter Lely	150/1	Mils Mij
14/1	Tartan Tradewinds	150/1	Twin States
16/1	Arthur's Minstrel	200/1	Off The Bru
20/1	Chatam	500/1	Benghazi
20/1	Stop The Waller		

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NEWBURY

THUNDERER

2.00 Mystic Knight
2.30 Murajja
3.00 Danehill Dancer
3.30 **WILCUMA** (nap)
4.00 Copperbeech
4.30 Nash House
5.00 Nosey Native
5.30 Phantom Quest

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Bright Water. 3.00 Danehill Dancer. 5.30 **PHANTOM QUEST** (nap).

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-1M STRAIGHT, HIGH NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 ARLINGTON INTERNATIONAL RACECOURSE CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £7,724: 1m 3f 5yd) (5 runners)

BBC1

101	(4)	6521-	FLYFISHER 194 (G) (Highclere Thoroughbreds) G Lewis 9-1	Paul Eddery	98
102	(2)	1-	BRIGHT WATER 178 (F) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-13	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
103	(1)	1	HIGH BAROQUE 18 (G) (M Tabor) P Chapple-Hyam 8-13	J Reid	92
104	(3)	1	MAIDEN CASTLE 23 (S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-13	L Dettori	97
105	(5)	6311-	MYSTIC KNIGHT 190 (F,S) (Lady Oppenheimer) R Charlton 8-13	T Sprake	96

BETTING: 10-11 Bright Water, 9-4 Maiden Castle, 6-1 High Baroque, 8-1 Flyfisher, Mystic Knight.

1995: POSIDONAS 8-13 T Quinn (16-1) P Cole 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

FLYFISHER beat Dismissed short-head in conditions race at Leicester (1m 2f, good). BRIGHT WATER beat Asthra neck in maiden at Yarmouth (1m, firm). HIGH BAROQUE beat Iamus 1l in 12-runner maiden at Nottingham (1m, good). MAIDEN CASTLE beat Orchestra Stall 10l in 9-runner maiden at Leicester (1m 2f, soft). MYSTIC KNIGHT completed double, beat Magic Lake 1l in 12-runner nursery at Newmarket (1m, good to firm).
Selection: BRIGHT WATER

2.30 LANES END JOHN PORTER STAKES (Group III: £20,580: 1m 4f 5yd) (11 runners)

BBC1

201	(8)	11/1222-	MOONAX 203 (D,G,S) (Godolphin) B Hills 5-9-3	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
202	(6)	200011-	BLUSHING FLAME 168 (D,F,G) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 5-8-12	J Reid	89
203	(3)	12246-4	FLORID 12 (D,G,S) (Lord Howard de Walden) H Cecil 5-8-12	A McGlone	89
204	(9)	461334-	WAYNE COUNTY 210 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs A Naughton) R Akehurst 6-8-12	T Quinn	89
205	(5)	012266-	COMMONER 132 (F,S) (B Nielsen) R Hannon 4-8-11	R Hughes	98
206	(2)	53120-1	JUYUSH 28 (D,F,S) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Hills 4-8-11	W Carson	96
207	(1)	11/1130-	MURAJJA 302 (F,G,S) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) P Walwyn 4-8-11	L Dettori	80
208	(11)	103014-	NAKED WELCOME 168 (D,F,G) M Fetherston-Godley 4-8-11	NON-RUNNER	89
209	(7)	121-	ZABADI 231 (F,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 4-8-11	M Hills	86
210	(10)	221160-	HAGWAH 182 (D,F) (A Ali) B Hanbury 4-8-8	K Darley	89
211	(4)	2/01313-	SPOUT 196 (C,D,G,S) (Lady Rothschild) R Charlton 4-8-8	T Sprake	93

BETTING: 3-1 Moonax, 7-2 Blushing Flame, Spout, 9-2 Juyush, 12-1 Florid, 14-1 others

1995: STRATEGIC CHOICE 4-8-11 T Quinn (12-1) P Cole 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

MOONAX head 2nd of 7 to Strategic Choice in group I Jefferson Smurfit Memorial Irish St Leger at The Curragh (1m 6f, good) on penultimate start. BLUSHING FLAME completed double, beat Captas 1¾l in 8-runner listed race at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to firm). FLORID 8¾l 4th of 12 to Lucky Di in listed race at Kempton (1m 2f, good). WAYNE COUNTY 10¾l 4th of 8 to Riyadian in the group II Cumberland Lodge Stakes at Ascot (1m 4f, good). COMMONER short-head 2nd of 7 to Burooj in group III Bonusprint September Stakes at Kempton (1m 3f, good) with WAYNE COUNTY (2lb worse off) 4l 3rd. JUYUSH beat Daraydan 3½l in 6-runner conditions race at Doncaster (1m 4f, soft). MURAJJA 1¾l and neck 3rd of 5 to Pentire in listed race at Chester (1m 2f 75yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. ZABADI, recent hurdles winner, beat Catch The Blues short-head in conditions race at Naas (7f, good to firm). SPOUT beat Saxon Maid 1¾l in listed race at Ascot (1m 4f, good to soft) on penultimate start with HAGWAH 24l 6th.
Selection: JUYUSH

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Gosden	31	116	26.7	L Dettori	38	192	19.8
L Cumani	13	49	26.5	J Weaver	10	53	18.9
P Chapple-Hyam	32	121	26.4	J Reid	42	234	17.9
Miss G Kelleway	3	12	25.0	Pat Eddery	37	225	16.4
H Cecil	14	76	18.4	W Carson	32	199	16.1
B Hanbury	8	45	17.8	D Harrison	14	107	13.1

AYR

THUNDERER

1.55 Blue Charm
2.25 No Pain No Gain
2.55 Challenger Du Luc
3.25 Chief Minister
4.05 Lo Stregone
4.40 Penny A Day
5.10 Scoundrel

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.40 TAROUDANT.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

1.55 ALBERT BARTLETT & SONS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,844: 2m 6f) (10 runners)

1	PP4153	NAUGHTY FUTURE 51 (C,G,S) (A Collins) J J O'Neill 7-11-10	M Dwyer	92
2	/00311	MASTER SANDY 12 (C,F,G) (Miss I Forrest) B Mactaggart 9-11-6	B Storey	98
3	0-25310	SHALLOW RIVER 29 (BF,G) (T Collins) R Collins 5-11-5	R Dunwoody	82
4	2/6-266	MANDALAY 7 (The Auld Alliance) J Old 7-11-3	G Upton	96
5	412133	BLUE CHARM 32 (F) (Mrs M Lindsay) Mrs S Bradburne 6-10-13	P Carberry	88
6	6/F3-222	SUPREME SOVIET 29 (A Gilchrist) A Whillans 6-10-12	B Harding	89
7	0131P	GENERATOR 1 (G,S) (Mrs M Easterby) T Easterby 5-10-10	DOUBTFUL	86
8	132F43	TOUGH TEST 29 (D,F) (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 6-10-1	G Cahill (5)	[illegible]
9	4/364-00	LUCIMAN 145 (BF) (Pamlyn Racing) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-0	P Niven	83
10	050	FLOWER OF DUNBLANE 19 (Tillyrie Cork Poppers) Mrs D Thomson 5-10-0	D Parker (3)	62

Long handicap: Luciman 9-7, Flower Of Dunblane 8-0

BETTING: 6-4 Master Sandy, 4-1 Naughty Future, 5-1 Mandalay, 7-1 Blue Charm, 8-1 Supreme Soviet, 10-1 Shallow River, Tough Test, 14-1 others

1995: DEDUCE 6-11-5 N Williamson (6-1) J White 11 ran

2.25 B/WISE PRICES BEYOND BELIEF NOVICES CHASE (£3,376: 2m) (5 runners)

1	121402	NO PAIN NO GAIN 19 (G,S) (Marvellous Ptnrs) J Gifford 8-12-1	P Hide	[illegible]
2	320213	MONTRAVE 2 (CD,F,G) (D St Clair) P Monteith 7-11-9	G Cahill (5)	82
3	F21F22	PAGLIACCIO 22 (D,F) (A Stewart) M Hammond 8-11-9	A Dobbin	88
4	54-U23F	ANOTHER VENTURE 14 (B,BF,S) (R Wheeler) F Murphy 6-11-3	P Carberry	77
5	004354	GRAND AS OWT 42 (Miss N Neal) D McCune 6-11-3	R Guest	58

BETTING: 6-4 No Pain No Gain, 9-4 Montrave, 3-1 Pagliaccio, 6-1 Another Venture, 20-1 Grand As Owt

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

2.55 EDINBURGH WOOLLEN MILL'S FUTURE CHAMPION NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £13,470: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

C4

1	121U11	ADDINGTON BOY 22 (D,F,G,S) (Gall Foods Ltd) G Richards 8-11-10	A Dobbin	[illegible]
2	2-31121	ARCTIC KINSMAN 21 (G,S) (Mrs R Hambro) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-10	C Llewellyn	92
3	212131	CHALLENGER DU LUC 37 (B,D,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 6-11-10	D Bridgwater	89
4	0631F3	OSCAIL AN DORAS 10 (F,S) (S Williams) F Murphy 7-11-3	P Carberry	57
5	321113	SOLBA 22 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (R Green) C Parker 7-11-3	B Storey	66
6	22141F	SPANISH LIGHT 42 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Sir John Barlow Bt) G Richards 7-11-3	B Harding	87

BETTING: 6-4 Arctic Kinsman, 2-1 Addington Boy, 9-4 Challenger Du Luc, 12-1 Spanish Light, 20-1 Solba, 33-1 Oscail An Doras.

1995: DANCING PADDY 7-11-7 R Dunwoody (13-8) K Cunningham-Brown 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

ADDINGTON BOY completed double, beat Avro Anson 3½l in 7-runner grade II Mumm Mildmay Novices' Chase at Aintree (3m 1f, good). ARCTIC KINSMAN beat Time Won't Wait 4l in 10-runner grade II Martell Aintree Limited Handicap Chase at Aintree (2m, good). CHALLENGER DU LUC beat An Shot 8l in 11-runner Cathcart Chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good). OSCAIL AN DORAS 8½l 3rd of 18 to Zambezi Spirit in novices' handicap chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, good). SOLBA completed treble, beat White Diamond 7l in 11-runner novice chase over course and distance (good) on penultimate start. SPANISH LIGHT beat Fiftysevenchannels 20l in 4-runner novice chase at Haydock (2m, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: CHALLENGER DU LUC

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
T Easterby	3	5	60.0	R Garritty	5	19	26.3
N Twiston-Davies	4	13	30.8	P Niven	37	151	24.5
Mrs M Reveley	40	153	26.1	L Wyer	9	45	20.0
G Richards	48	205	23.4	A Dobbin	24	132	18.2
J Gifford	4	18	22.2	B Storey	26	191	13.6
J J O'Neill	19	90	21.1	M Dwyer	9	76	11.8

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.00 TRIPLEPRINT GREENHAM STAKES (Group III: 3-Y-O: £19,860: 7f str) (8 runners)

BBC1

301	(8)	1112-	DANEHILL DANCER 190 (D,F,G) (M Tabor) N Callaghan 9-0	Pat Eddery	96
302	(2)	22145-4	HENRY THE FIFTH 14 (C,S) (A Richards) C Brittain 9-0	B Doyle	80
303	(1)	123113-	KAHIR ALMAYDAN 205 (C,F,G,S) (A Al Shafar) J Dunlop 9-0	W Carson	[illegible]
304	(7)	4215-	LOMBERTO 184 (D,S) (S Al Homeizi) R Hannon 9-0	T Quinn	85
305	(6)	12-	LUCAYAN PRINCE 339 (F) (Lucayan Stud) D Loder 9-0	R Hughes	71
306	(4)	16140-	SEA DANE 206 (F) (Carat Gold Connections) P Harris 9-0	G Hind	78
307	(3)	514113-	TAGULA 190 (F,G) (R Hitchins) I Balding 9-0	L Dettori	95
308	(5)	012132-	WOODBOROUGH 205 (F,G) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	J Reid	90

BETTING: 2-1 Danehill Dancer, 5-2 Tagula, 3-1 Woodborough, 5-1 Kahir Almaydan, 12-1 Lucayan Prince, 14-1 Henry The Fifth, 16-1 others

1995: CELTIC SWING 9-0 K Darley (4-9 fav) Lady Herries 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

DANEHILL DANCER 2½l 2nd of 4 to Alhaarth in group 1 Generous Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) with TAGULA 1¾l 3rd. Earlier beat WOODBOROUGH neck in 10-runner group 1 Heinz Phoenix Stakes at Leopardstown (6f, good to firm). HENRY THE FIFTH 2¾l 4th of 10 to Regiment in listed race at Kempton (1m, good). KAHIR ALMAYDAN completed double, when beating Kuantan 6l in 6-runner group II Bonusprint Mill Reef Stakes here (6f, good to soft) on penultimate start. LOMBERTO 1¾l 5th of 9 to Tumbleweed Ridge in group III Horris Hill Stakes here (7f 64yd, good to soft). LUCAYAN PRINCE ½l 2nd of 6 to Dovebrace in conditions race at York (6f, good). DANE best effort, beat Line Dancer 2l in 7-runner conditions race at Pontefract (5f, good to firm). TAGULA beat With Fascination 1l in 8-runner group I Prix Morny Piaget at Deauville (6f, good); on penultimate start, WOODBOROUGH 4l 2nd of 5 to Royal Applause 4l in group I Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket (6f, good).
Selection: DANEHILL DANCER

3.30 LADBROKES SPRING CUP HANDICAP (£18,156: 1m 7yd rnd) (20 runners)

BBC1

401	(2)	10264-5	CADEAUX TRYST 30 (F,G) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-10-0	Paul Eddery	92
402	(11)	41303-0	HOH EXPRESS 28 (CD,G) (D Allport) I Balding 4-9-13	K Darley	90
403	(5)	0/21100-	JAWAAL 304 (D,F,G) (T Fort) Lady Herries 6-9-10	J Reid	89
404	(6)	211245-	CLAN BEN 175 (D,F,S) (A Dundee) H Cecil 4-9-7	Pat Eddery	91
405	(14)	31000-6	BAND ON THE RUN 30 (D,F,G,S) (D Allen) B McMahon 9-9-6	L Newton (5)	91
406	(16)	21100-0	NIGHT DANCE 28 (D,F,G,S) (G Wragg) G Lewis 4-9-6	A Whelan (3)	98
407	(19)	4200-01	WELTON ARSENAL 12 (F,G) (Business Forms) M Channon 4-9-6	R Hughes	92
408	(20)	55010-1	STONE RIDGE 28 (D,F,S) (Mrs C Harrington) R Hannon 4-9-5	Dane O'Neill (5)	95
409	(10)	40/0430-	CIM BOM BOM 329 (F,S) (Y Birol) M Bell 4-9-4	M Fenton	89
410	(15)	40/1-	DAUNT 380 (D,G) (Lord Hartington) J Gosden 4-9-4	L Dettori	88
411	(4)	30102-0	ROMIOS 12 (G,S) (C Shiacolas) P Cole 4-9-1	T Quinn	93
412	(1)	406102-	WILCUMA 182 (D,F,G,S) (T Warner) P Makin 5-9-1	S Sanders	98
413	(8)	011020-	AKIL 182 (D,F,S) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) R Armstrong 4-9-1	W Carson	94
414	(12)	15/3020-	ROYAL PHILOSOPHER 217 (D,S) (A Miller) J Hills 4-8-13	M Hills	95
415	(18)	22360-1	COOL EDGE 29 (D,F,S) (H Chan) M Tompkins 5-8-11	P Robinson	97
416	(9)	0013-34	SHINEROLLA 28 (D,F,G) (Mrs A Green) C Parker 4-8-8	W Woods	93
417	(17)	400026-	EMBANKMENT 214 (D,F,S) (Lady Tennant) R Hannon 6-8-8	B Thomson	97
418	(3)	420004-	CZARNA 259 (S) (Mrs S Collins) C Brittain 5-8-8	B Doyle	91
419	(7)	425301	STAR TALENT 8 (F,G,S) (Miss J Crowley) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-7	R Cochrane	[illegible]
420	(13)	00-121	ANASTINA 23 (D,G,S) (R and A Craddock) N Graham 4-8-5	D Harrison	96

BETTING: 9-1 Anastina, 10-1 Shinerolla, 12-1 Cool Edge, Clan Ben, Stone Ridge, Daunt, 14-1 Jawaal, 16-1 others

1995: STAR MANAGER 5-8-5 T Quinn (20-1) P Cole 20 ran

FORM FOCUS

JAWAAL best effort last season, beat Kayvee 3l in 10-runner listed handicap at York (1m, good). CLAN BEN beat ROYAL PHILOSOPHER (10lb better off) 3l in 8-runner conditions race at Doncaster (1m, good to soft), September 95. WELTON ARSENAL beat Pengamon neck in 8-runner conditions race at Warwick (7f, good). STONE RIDGE beat Roving Minstrel 1¾l in 24-runner Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster (1m, soft) with SHINEROLLA (7lb better off) 8½l 4th, WELTON ARSENAL (7lb better off) 6¾l 9th, NIGHT DANCE (7lb better off) 4l 11th and HOH EXPRESS (7lb better off) 10l 14th. DAUNT beat Viyapari 2½l in 12-runner maiden at Leicester (1m, good). WILCUMA short-head 2nd of 12 to Smart Generation in handicap here (1m 1f, good to soft) with AKIL (6lb better off) 11l 9th. COOL EDGE beat Lynton Lad 1¾l in 21-runner handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to soft). ANASTINA beat It's Academic 7l in 7-runner handicap at Leicester (1m, soft).
Selection: ROYAL PHILOSOPHER

3.25 DAILY STAR OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH CHAMPION HURDLE (Limited handicap: grade II: £16,380: 2m) (9 runners)

C4

1	0/11-12	ALDERBROOK 39 (D,BF,S) (E Pick) K Bailey 7-11-7	R Dunwoody	95
2	213P3F	PRIDWELL 21 (D,F,G,S) (Jones, Berstock and Fleet Ptnrs) M Pipe 6-10-12	C Maude	97
3	113-020	HOTEL MINELLA 39 (D,G,S) (J Nallen) A O'Brien (Ire) 9-10-8	G Bradley	[illegible]
4	1164/5P	MUSE 39 (D,G,S) (White Horse Racing Ltd) D Elsworth 9-10-4	P Carberry	
5	41F-230	LAND AFAR 39 (D,G,S) (T Ford) P Webber 9-10-4	M Dwyer	97
6	/11/50P	STAUNCH FRIEND 7 (CD,G,S) (B Schmidt-Bodner) M Tompkins 8-10-4	P Niven	98
7	5P6201	ABSALOM'S LADY 12 (D,F,G,S) (Whitcombe Manor Ltd) D Elsworth 8-10-4	A Procter	90
8	01-3220	CHIEF MINISTER 39 (D,F,S) (G Shiel) T Dyer 7-10-4	A Dobbin	82
9	153143	ESCARTEFIGUE 22 (D,S) (D Mercer) M Pipe 4-10-4	D Bridgwater	68

Long handicap: Muse 10-2, Land Afar 10-0, Staunch Friend 10-0, Absalom's Lady 10-0, Chief Minister 9-5, Escartefigue 8-4

BETTING: 5-4 Alderbrook, 5-1 Staunch Friend, 6-1 Hotel Minella, Absalom's Lady, 7-1 Pridwell, 10-1 Land Afar, 16-1 others

1995: HOME COUNTIES 6-11-2 D J Moffatt (7-2) D Moffatt 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALDERBROOK 2½l 2nd of 16 to Collier Bay in grade I Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft) with PRIDWELL (9lb better off) 6l 3rd, STAUNCH FRIEND (17lb better off) 9½l 8th, HOTEL MINELLA (13lb better off) 11l 9th, LAND AFAR (17lb better off) 5l 10th, CHIEF MINISTER (17lb better off) 8l 11th and ABSALOM'S LADY (17lb better off) 29l 14th. MUSE (17lb better off) pulled up before 5th. HOTEL MINELLA head 2nd of 11 to Collier Bay in grade I AIG Europe Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, yielding to soft) on penultimate start with ABSALOM'S LADY (1lb worse off) 16½l 6th. ABSALOM'S LADY beat Backgammon head in 7-runner conditions hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to firm). CHIEF MINISTER head 2nd of 5 to Palacegate King in limited handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, soft) on penultimate start. ESCARTEFIGUE 2½l 3rd of 10 to Silver Shred in grade II Martell Mersey Novices' Hurdle at Aintree (2m 4f, good).
Selection: STAUNCH FRIEND

4.05 STAKIS CASINOS SCOTTISH GRAND NATIONAL (Handicap chase: grade III: £38,590: 4m 1f) (23 runners)

C4

1	P-11F3P	COULDNT BE BETTER 23 (BF,F,G,S) (R Whittle) C Brooks 9-11-10	G Bradley	97
2	21103F	WILLSFORD 35 (CD,F,G,S) (A Kaplan, R Johnson) Mrs J Pitman 13-11-2	R Farrant	97
3	343-121	LO STREGONE 56 (B,F,G,S) (Mrs S Clegg) T Tate 10-10-13	R Garritty	[illegible]
4	U1F-362	TARTAN TYRANT 56 (C,G,S) (Mackinnon Mills) G Richards 10-10-8	A Dobbin	98
5	0-20P3P	CHATAM 21 (F,G,S) (A Nolan) M Pipe 12-10-0	D Bridgwater	90
6	2111-32	MORGANS HARBOUR 22 (BF,F,G,S) (P Owen) Mrs M Reveley 10-10-0	P Niven	90
7	3U4113	ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 25 (F,G,S) (B Hathaway) D Nicholson 9-10-0	R Johnson (3)	89
8	P-52PF4	SIR PETER LELY 21 (V,F,G,S) (J Doyle Ltd) M Hammond 9-10-0	Mr C Bonner (3)	94
9	11-211F	GENERAL WOLFE 39 (BF,G,S) (The Winning Line) T Forster 7-10-0	R Dunwoody	97
10	1212-05	TARTAN TRADEWINDS 22 (C,G,S) (Mackinnon Mills) G Richards 9-10-0	B Harding	80
11	315201	TOOGOOD TO BE TRUE 12 (F,G,S) (J McGrath) T Easterby 8-10-0	L Wyer	91
12	1P-563P	MERRY MASTER 35 (B,F,G,S) (G Lansbury) A Harrison 12-10-0	C Maude	82
13	3F-P463	MOORCROFT BOY 35 (D,G,S) (K Manley) D Nicholson 11-10-0	M Dwyer	76
14	P1-21UU	CEILIDH BOY 29 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 10-10-0	R Guest	85
15	222121	STOP THE WALLER 39 (G,S) (R Burgan) F Murphy 7-10-0	P Carberry	75
16	P/11P-51	ABERCROMBY CHIEF 67 (G,S) (I Davidson) J Johnson 11-10-0	G Upton	67
17	404P54	BOARDING SCHOOL 22 (C,F,G,S) (R Green) C Parker 9-10-0	B Storey	60
18	11-PP34	MAJIC RAIN 7 (F,G,S) (D Tate) D Eddy 11-10-0	G Cahill (5)	53
19	3343P3	MILS MIJ 14 (BF,F,G,S) (W Hurst) T Cuthbert 11-10-0	J Callaghan	53
20	316U36	TWIN STATES 22 (F,G,S) (Mrs E Dixon) J Turner 7-10-0	W Fry	50
21	142163	BANNTOWN BILL 23 (V,F,G,S) (E Scarth) M Pipe 7-10-0	R Bellamy	50
22	521F24	OFF THE BRU 2 (C,F,G,S) (J Bradburne) Mrs S Bradburne 11-10-0	Mr M Bradburne (7)	65
23	U6-5PF5	BENGHAZI 11 (S) (A Thomson) A Thomson 12-10-0	D Parker (3)	50

Long handicap: Chatam 9-13, Morgans Harbour 9-9, Arthur's Minstrel 9-6, Sir Peter Lely 9-6, General Wolfe 9-5, Tartan Tradewinds 9-4, Toogood To Be True 9-3, Merry Master 8-13, Moorcroft Boy 8-12, Ceilidh Boy 8-10, Stop The Waller 8-4, Abercromby Chief 8-2, Boarding School 7-8, Majic Rain 7-8, Mils Mij 7-8, Twin States 7-7, Banntown Bill 6-13, Off The Bru 6-13, Benghazi 6-5

BETTING: 7-2 General Wolfe, 9-2 Morgans Harbour, 7-1 Lo Stregone, 10-1 Willsford, Toogood To Be True, 12-1 Tartan Tradewinds, Couldnt Be Better, 16-1 others

1995: WILLSFORD 12-10-12 R Farrant (16-1) Mrs J Pitman 22 ran

FORM FOCUS

COULDNT BE BETTER 23l 3rd of 10 to Imperial Call in grade I Tote Gold Cup at Cheltenham (3m 2f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. LO STREGONE beat TARTAN TYRANT (5lb better off) 5l in grade III Greenalls Grand National Trial Handicap Chase at Haydock (3m 4f 110yd, soft) with WILLSFORD (won this race last year) (9lb better off) 30l 3rd. CHATAM 20l 3rd of 10 to Maamur in Ritz Club National Hunt Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft) on penultimate start. MORGANS HARBOUR 2½l 2nd of 8 to All For Luck in handicap chase at Aintree (3m 1f, good) with TARTAN TRADEWINDS (5lb worse off) 11½l 5th. ARTHUR'S MINSTEL completed double, beat Bishops Hall 4l in 5-runner handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. SIR PETER LELY 17½l 4th of 27 to Rough Quest in grade III Martell Grand National Handicap Chase at Aintree (4m 4f, good); CHATAM (3lb better off) saddle slipped and pulled up before 5th. GENERAL WOLFE beat Encore Un Peu 8l in 5-runner handicap chase at Haydock (3m, good to soft) on penultimate start with MOORCROFT BOY (12lb better off) 35l 4th. TOOGOOD TO BE TRUE beat Ali's Alibi 2½l in 7-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good). MERRY MASTER, 2nd in this race in 1993, 5l 2nd of 12 to Addington Boy in handicap at Doncaster (3m 2f, good) with TOOGOOD TO BE TRUE (4lb better off) 37l 7th, SIR PETER LELY (7lb better off) left 2nd, BOARDING SCHOOL (6lb worse off) pulled up before 2 out. STOP THE WALLER beat Encore Un Peu ½l in 22-runner Kim Muir Handicap Chase for amateur riders at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft). GENERAL WOLFE (22lb better off) led until left 9th.
Selection: LO STREGONE

4.00 NETHERAVON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O fillies: £3,688: 5f 34yd) (8 runners)

501	(1)	CHERRY BLOSSOM (Highclere Thoroughbreds) R Hannon 8-11	Pat Eddery	—
502	(3)	CLARA BLISS (G Catchpole) B Meehan 8-11	B Doyle	—
503	(2)	COPPERBEECH (A Gillespie) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	J Reid	—
504	(6)	HYPE ENERGY (R Cyzer) G Lewis 8-11	Paul Eddery	—
505	(5)	LIFE ON THE STREET (P Savill) R Hannon 8-11	K Darley	—
506	(7)	MARCH STAR (G Cobey) J Toller 8-11	W Carson	—
507	(4)	POLY MOON (Sheet & Roll Convertors) M Channon 8-11	R Hughes	—
508	(8)	ZANABAY (S Bayless) M Meade 8-11	R Havlin (5)	—

BETTING: 7-4 Copperbeech, 7-2 Cherry Blossom, 4-1 Life On The Street, 5-1 Hype Energy, 7-1 Poly Moon, 14-1 Clara Bliss, 16-1 others

1995: KANDAVU 7-13 S Davies (3-1) M McCormack 8 ran

4.30 BURGHCLERE MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 3-Y-O: £3,493: 1m str) (15 runners)

601	(6)		BANNERET (E Roberts) Lord Huntingdon 9-0	D Harrison	—
602	(3)		BATTLE SPARK (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 9-0	D Biggs	—
603	(11)		BECHSTEIN (B Anderson) J Dunlop 9-0	B Thomson	—
604	(13)	0	BRENTABILITY 12 (D Barker) G Lewis 9-0	S Whitworth	75
605	(14)	0-0	FLYING PENNANT 8 (C Hamer) R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill (5)	75
606	(5)		HEVER GOLF CLASSIC (Hever Racing) T Naughton 9-0	Paul Eddery	—
607	(2)	6	LUCKY ARCHER 30 (W Gredley) C Brittain 9-0	B Doyle	74
608	(12)	5-	MUKHLLES 261 (Hamdan Al Maktoum) W Hern 9-0	W Carson	80
609	(9)		NASH HOUSE (Lord Weinstock) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	J Reid	—
610	(8)	5-	RAISE A PRINCE 205 (G Tong) R Armstrong 9-0	W Woods	[illegible]
611	(11)	0	SAM ROCKETT 12 (Miss M Campbell) C Horgan 9-0	A Clark	—
612	(7)	0-	STONEY END 273 (M Myers) M Channon 9-0	R Hughes	—
613	(10)	0-	THE DILETTANTI 206 (Duke Of Devonshire) J Toller 9-0	S Sanders	—
614	(15)	0	WILL DO 26 (A Smith) M Meade 9-0	R Havlin (5)	—
615	(4)	6-	WAFT 151 (Heatherwold Stud) B Hills 8-9	M Hills	—

BETTING: 5-4 Nash House, 8-1 Raise A Prince, Bechstein, 10-1 Banneret, Mukhlles, 14-1 Lucky Archer, 16-1 others

1995: LYRIKOS 9-0 W Ryan (14-1) H Cecil 24 ran

5.00 LEVY BOARD SEVENTH HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,378: 1m 4f 5yd) (12 runners)

1	(5)	43211-1	ROMAN GOLD 14 (G) (G Teo) R Hannon 9-7	Dane O'Neill (5)	94
2	(4)	6-1	INFAMOUS 23 (D,S) (Fahd Salman) P Cole 9-6	T Quinn	91
3	(9)	-5231	NOSEY NATIVE 185 (F) (J Furlong) J Pearce 9-5	G Bardwell	[illegible]
4	(3)	50-1	PUNKAH 51 (G) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 9-1	D Harrison	
5	(2)	605-	ELA-YIE-MOU 177 (A Michael) L Cumani 8-13	L Dettori	97
6	(1)	22020-0	AILESBURY HILL 12 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-12	R Havlin (5)	92
7	(7)	06100-0	KINNESCASH 18 (F,S) (D Wright) M Saunders 8-11	R Hughes	88
8	(10)	3025-65	AL'S ALIBI 12 (Sussex Stud) W Muir 8-10	Pat Eddery	94
9	(8)	000-	OLIVER ROCK 204 (Stamford Bridge) D Chappell 8-3	B Thomson	[illegible]
10	(6)	0030-05	WIRE ACT 8 (M Frell) M Meade 7-12	T Sprake	87
11	(12)	3000-40	ATLANTIC MIST 12 (Wardour Partners) B Millman 7-10	F Norton	98
12	(11)	000-605	RIVERCARE 12 (P Storier) M Polglase 7-10	N Carlisle	95

Long handicap: Atlantic Mist 7-9, Rivercare 7-7

BETTING: 11-4 Infamous, 7-2 Roman Gold, 6-1 Ailesbury Hill, 8-1 Nosey Native, 8-1 Punkah, 10-1 Ela-Yie-Mou, 14-1 Atlantic Mist, 16-1 others

1995: MONARCH 8-6 T Quinn (6-1) P Cole 8 ran

5.30 BURGHCLERE MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 3-Y-O: £3,460: 1m str) (14 runners)

1	(9)	0-0	AMEER ALFAYAAF 12 (Lime Street Racing) R Akehurst 9-0	S Sanders	78
2	(13)	42-	DOUBLE BLUFF 232 (J Smith) I Balding 9-0	K Darley	90
3	(5)		FASIL (Hamdan Al Maktoum) C Benstead 9-0	M Wigham	—
4	(6)		FORMIDABLE FLAME (Mrs R Brown) W Musson 9-0	D Urbina	—
5	(1)		FORZA FIGLIO (Grnd Thoroughbreds) Miss G Kelleway 9-0	R Cochrane	—
6	(3)		GOLDEN ACE (G Teo) R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill (5)	—
7	(14)		KUALA LIPIS (Sultan Ahmad Shah) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	—
8	(10)		KUTMAN (Mana Al Maktoum) M Stoute 9-0	L Dettori	—
9	(8)		MAWARED (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0	W Carson	—
10	(12)	2-	MUSICK HOUSE 233 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	J Reid	[illegible]
11	(2)		PHANTOM QUEST (K Abdulla) H Cecil 9-0	Pat Eddery	—
12	(4)		SCIMITAR (R Marchant) P Makin 9-0	A McGlone	—
13	(7)	6-6	CHARLTON IMP 16 (R Hodges) R Hodges 8-9	F Norton	87
14	(11)	45-	GREY GALAVA 279 (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 8-9	G Brace (7)	—

BETTING: 5-4 Phantom Quest, 7-2 Musick House, 8-1 Double Bluff, Kutman, 12-1 Kuala Lipis, 14-1 Mawared, 16-1 Golden Ace, 20-1 others

1995: LYRIKOS 9-0 W Ryan (14-1) H Cecil 24 ran

4.40 SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS HANDICAP HURDLE (£7,181: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

C4

1	11-6PP	AARDWOLF 189 (G,S) (Lady Camilla Dempster) C Brooks 5-11-10	G Bradley	82
2	003353	WHITE WILLOW 11 (F,S) (H North) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-9	Mr M H Naughton (7)	89
3	103013	COQUI LANE 19 (CD,G,S) (J Dun) J Dun 9-11-6	D Parker (3)	91
4	00/2-PP5	TAROUDANT 17 (D,G) (G Farndon) R Woodhouse 9-11-6	M Dwyer	[illegible]
5	111	PENNY A DAY 14F (C,G,S) (J Good) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-4	P Niven	94
6	00-0004	BURNT IMP 35 (D,F,G,S) (N Mason (Farms) Ltd) G Moore 6-11-4	J Callaghan	92
7	15-121R	MONICASMAN 38 (F,G,S) (A Turnbull) A Jarvis 6-11-2	R Dunwoody	94
8	6225-04	ARFER MOLE 22 (S) (W Stuart) J Old 8-10-13	G Upton	90
9	156655	DANCING DOVE 19 (F,G) (Dr K Fraser) G Richards 8-10-9	A Dobbin	92
10	1-00602	HIGH MIND 32 (F) (J Wilson) Miss L Siddall 7-10-4	C Maude	86
11	6613-61	WELL APPOINTED 12 (F) (Drumlanrig Racing) B Mactaggart 7-10-0	F Perratt	86
12	000U05	NICHOLAS PLANT 26 (CD,S) (Mrs M Paterson) J Goldie 7-10-0	G Cahill (5)	—

Long handicap: Well Appointed 9-10, Nicholas Plant 9-2

BETTING: 5-2 Penny A Day, 5-1 Arfer Mole, 6-1 Monicasman, 7-1 Aardwolf, 8-1 Coqui Lane, White Willow, 10-1 Burnt Imp, 12-1 others

1995: MASTER OF TROY 7-9-9 Mr D Parker (12-1) C Parker 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

WHITE WILLOW 8¾l 3rd of 5 to Erzadjan in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). COQUI LANE 4¾l 3rd of 10 to Erzadjan in handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm) with DANCING DOVE (2lb better off) 8½l 5th. TAROUDANT 10½l 5th of 9 to Flying Instructor in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to firm). PENNY A DAY, unbeaten over hurdles, beat Direct Route 1½l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good to soft). BURNT IMP about 4l 4th of 9 to Carley Lad in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (3m, soft). MONICASMAN beat Just 'N' Ace 5l in 18-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. ARFER MOLE 7½l 4th of 16 to Outset in handicap hurdle at Aintree (3m 4f, good). HIGH MIND 5l 2nd of 8 to Sharkashka in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, good). WELL APPOINTED beat Urban Dancing 5l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, firm). NICHOLAS PLANT 22¾l 5th of 10 to Carnetto in handicap hurdle at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, soft).
Selection: PENNY A DAY (nap)

5.10 ST ANDREWS SPORTSWEAR COMPANY FUTURE CHAMPION STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,805: 2m) (20 runners)

1	2/12-	BEN CRUACHAN 507 (G) (The Caledonian Racing Club) J Jefferson 6-11-9	M Dwyer	—
2	154	SWANBISTER 35 (G) (Colonel D Greig) L Lungo 6-11-9	B Harding	—
3	1	MARELLO 25 (G) (Mrs M Williams) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4	G Cahill (5)	—
4	104	PAPERISING 7 (G) (The Jockeys' Whips) M Barnes 4-11-3	P Waggott	—
5	046	BOSTON MAN 42 (M Oldham) R Woodhouse 5-11-2	L Wyer	—
6	02	BRAVE EDWIN 14 (W Stuart) J Old 6-11-2	G Upton	—
7		CAUGHT AT LAST (E Fenwick) J Haldane 5-11-2	B Storey	—
8		MAJESTIC SOUND (Lady A Maxwell) J Edwards 5-11-2	R Johnson (3)	—
9	0	PENTLAND SQUIRE 44 (Mrs M Dixon) J Jefferson 5-11-2	M Newton (7)	—
10		READY MONEY CREEK (Roach Foods Ltd) O Sherwood 5-11-2	D Thomas (7)	—
11	2	SCOUNDREL 25 (Mrs J Corbett) K Bailey 5-11-2	R Dunwoody	—
12		SKIDDAW KNIGHT (J Wills) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-2	P Niven	—
13	2	WALTER'S DREAM 17 (Mrs E Baines) N Henderson 6-11-2	R Dunwoody	—
14		WILLIE WANNABE (Mrs P Stirling) Mrs D Thomson 6-11-2	A Dobbin	—
15		ALAN'S PRIDE (Mrs L McKeown) W McKeown 5-10-11	N Smith	—
16	3	ARDRINA 33 (L M Racing) Mrs J Brown 5-10-11	E Callaghan (5)	—
17	53	SEPTEMBER BREEZE 40 (T Tate) T Tate 5-10-11	R Garritty	—
18		BOLD ROMEO (Queen Elizabeth) N Henderson 4-10-10	C Llewellyn	—
19	03	GOLF LAND 66 (Mrs J Peutherer) L Lungo 4-10-10	F Perratt	—
20		SINGING PROFIT (W Young) W Young 4-10-5	R Murphy (7)	—

BETTING: 7-2 Marello, 9-2 Ben Cruachan, 6-1 Swanbister, 7-1 Walter's Dream, 8-1 Scoundrel, 14-1 Bold Romeo, 16-1 others

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Brighton (2.00 start), Hexham (2.20), **Nottingham** (2.10)
TUESDAY: Chepstow (2.10), **Folkestone** (2.00), **Pontefract** (2.20)
WEDNESDAY: Catterick Bridge (2.20), Perth (2.40), **Southwell** (AW, 2.30)
THURSDAY: **Beverley** (2.10), Fontwell Park (2.20), Perth (2.00)
FRIDAY: Carlisle (2.10), Ludlow (5.45), Perth (2.20), Sandown Park (C4, 2.00), Taunton (5.30)
SATURDAY: Market Rasen (2.10), **Leicester** (2.00), **Ripon** (2.05), Sandown Park (mixed, C4, 2.15), **Wolverhampton** (AW, 7.00), Worcester (5.45)

Flat meetings in bold

RAPID RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS

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Personal vendettas tearing game apart

David Hands says that the protagonists must step aside to resolve rugby union's dispute

WHATEVER the cost in bruised egos, it is high time the dispute between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading English clubs was resolved. Too much damage has been done to the sport's image by a highly public squabble and more may yet be sustained to its fabric should potential investors choose to look elsewhere.

Nothing is more important to the RFU than this. Without a unified front, every one of its activities is affected, be it negotiations worth millions over television — with or without its five nations' partners — or youth development officers around the regions endeavouring to encourage youngsters into a game evidently at odds with itself.

Yet this week there has been no movement to break the impasse. An informal four-hour meeting at the start of the week between Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU's executive committee, and Donald Kerr, chairman of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (EPRUC), only left the sides further apart while the conference at Twickenham this weekend of the constituent bodies of the RFU, the counties, was apparently deemed of greater significance.

This is a ludicrous state of affairs, even allowing for the extraordinary situation this season of a game translating itself from amateurism to professionalism. The sides have been polarised by the emergence of personalities above issues and if progress cannot be achieved any other way, then those personalities should be removed from the stage. The clubs have already made it abundantly clear that they cannot do business with Brittle; equally, the RFU resents what it perceives as interference from Sir John Hall, chairman of Newcastle United Sporting Clubs and now a leading player in rugby.

However, the RFU is in a cleft stick over Brittle. Last year it created the position of chairman precisely to meet the day-to-day demands of its burgeoning sport and relieve the president of some obligations; Peter Bromage died a week after taking office which forced a divisive election, won overwhelmingly by Brittle. To override his position now smacks of a blow in the face of democracy.

Yet the game in England is far bigger than a handful of individuals. No one was more critical of the RFU's fumbled first special general meeting this year than David Hiles, secretary of Pinner and Grammarians, and no one ceded with better grace the improvement made before the second meeting.

"This row appears to be tearing our game apart," he said. "The feeling among the junior clubs is that the senior clubs can't do it all alone, if they try. We must have a unified game, one governing body and no splinter groups. I think the RFU are right to try to retain overall control but they don't seem to get to grips with everything in detail.

"Whether they have the manpower and the capability to organise these competitions from the centre, I'm not sure. Someone has to take on a co-ordinating role so we don't get a clash of interests. On the money side, my sympathies are with the clubs. Handouts are fine in the short term but sustaining the game over the years is a different kettle of fish."

Bill Bishop, the RFU president, has been added to the negotiating team and he must exert the authority of his office and hammer out an agreement, without Brittle on the union's side and without Sir John among the clubs. The RFU set a precedent for a change in emphasis this year when Bishop chaired the first special general meeting but left the second to be steered, not by Brittle but by Bob Rogers, a leading committeeman. What has been done once can be done again.

Sella will lead an international XV against Leicester at Twickenham tomorrow

Supporters give final verdict on professional era

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE predicted attendances at Twickenham today and tomorrow provide a timely commentary on the public perception of rugby union: the CIS county final this afternoon between Warwickshire and Gloucestershire will be fortunate to attract five figures while more than 30,000 are expected for the Sanyo Cup challenge match between Leicester and an international XV.

One is the culmination of the traditional game, the other a product of the professional era, the need to generate cash, for Twickenham to pay its way and parade stars before a public increasingly seeking entertainment and heedless of what has gone before.

As it happens, the match tomorrow could not now have come at a worse time for Leicester, embroiled as they are in the hectic climax to the Courage Clubs Championship season, trying to claw back Bath's advantage at the top of the table, which may be extended if Bath win heavily against Orrell today.

With both clubs having played 16 games and lost twice, Bath lead on points difference by 52, but they have never beaten Orrell by more than three points at Edgehall Road in the league. Whether playing at Wigan's Central Park ground will make a difference remains to be seen but they will offer more curiosity value than did Leicester last month, since it is Bath who play Wigan in the cross-code two-match series next month.

The county final will give Tim Smith the opportunity to play a last game at Twickenham before he retires. At 33, Smith, a scaffolder, is the epitome of the game as it was: a whole-hearted full back, sometimes a match-winner with his goalkicking, which has helped him to 2,737 points over 14 years with Gloucester. He is part of the first Gloucestershire team to contest a final since 1984, whereas Warwickshire are holders and favourites.

Profits from Leicester's match against an international XV coached by Bob Dwyer, of Australia, will be shared among all the first-division clubs though, given the divisions between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and its leading clubs, it is ironic that this match started life as a celebration of 125 years of rugby at Twickenham and that the visitors were billed as an RFU President's XV.

Still, Philippe Sella, the world's most-capped player, will lead a XV drawn from 11 countries that will match the Underwood brothers, Rory and Tony, against each other on the respective wings.

Jukes and Jones keep Welsh flag flying in title race

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

LOCAL pride, a key ingredient in this parochial sport, is of little consequence when compared with a country's honour and Welsh patriotism is spurring on Jamie Jukes and Pip Jones in their respective title challenges.

It is 13 years since a Welsh rider, John Llewellyn, won a national championship but Jukes, a timber merchant from Penrhiwllan in Dyfed, is making steady progress towards the leaders in the men's championship.

He fully justified the journey from his home to the **Tiverton** meeting in Devon on Wednesday by riding a double on Dauphin Bleu and Otter Mill, the latter for Oliver Carter.

Those victories took his tally to 15, three behind Alastair Crow and Andrew Parker. However, he seems likely to be awarded another victory after an inquiry at Portman Square on Wednesday when his second place on The Rum Mariner at the Brecon will be promoted if it is found Lislary Lad did not carry the correct penalty.

Today, he rides at the **Pentyrch** meeting and tomorrow teams up with redoubtable trainer Bert Lavis for at least five rides at the **Pembrokeshire**, where Cedar Square is one of his likely winners.

Jones will be an anxious spectator, having ridden a double last week which took her to the head of the national women's table with 20 winners. A subsequent fall required hospital treatment and she is ruled out until next week at the earliest. Handsome Harvey, her best ride, is being kept back in the hope she recovers quickly.

Polly Curling is now four behind Jones after winning on Flaked Oats at the Tiverton fixture, where Rupert Nuttall and Shirley Vickery rode doubles. Curling partners Still In Business at the **Axe Vale** today and Qannaas at the **Isle Of Wight** tomorrow.

Today's feature race is the men's open at the **Worcestershire** for the Lady Dudley Cup. Lochingall, Bankhead and Fiddlers Three all miss the race and Lighten The Load could take advantage. Being trained in Wales, he will not lack support.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Axe Vale, Stafford Cross, 3m west of Seaton (first race 1.30); Bedale & West Of Yore, Hornby Castle, S of Catterick (2.00); Dartmoor, Flete Park, 10m E of Plymouth, nr A379 (2.00); Essex & Suffolk, Higham, 8m NE of Colchester (2.00); Holcombe Harriers, Whittington, 2m SW of Kirby Lonsdale (2.00); Pentyrch, Llantwit Major, 2m NW of town (2.00); South & West Wilts, Larkhill, 4m N of Amesbury (2.00); Worcestershire, Chaddesley Corbett, between Bromsgrove & Kidderminster (2.00)

TOMORROW: Grafton, Mollington, 5m N Banbury (2.00), Isle Of Wight, Tweseldown, 3m W of Aldershot (1.00); Meynell & South Staffs, Sandon, 4m SE of Stone (2.00), Pembrokeshire, Lydstep, 3m SW of Tenby (2.00); Southdown & Eridge, Heathfield, 1m E of town (2.00).

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newbury

Going: good to soft

2.10 (5f 34yd) 1, Dayflight In Dubai (K Darley, Evens fav); 2, Granny's Pet (7-4); 3, Referendum (14-1). 13 ran. 2l, 3l. P Chapple-Hyam. Tote: £2.10; £1.40, £1.10, £2.10. DF: £2.20. Trio: £7.60. CSF: £3.14.

2.40 (1m 3f 5yd) 1, Air Quest (Pat Eddery, 100-30; Richard Evans's nap); 2, Set Adrift (15-8 fav); 3, Smilin N Wishin (100-30). 11 ran. 5l, hd. R Charlton. Tote: £3.80; £1.80, £1.40, £1.30. DF: £3.50. Trio: £3.60. CSF: £8.77.

3.10 (7f 64yd) 1, Boara Sham (Pat Eddery, 2-9 fav, Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Keepers Dawn (66-1); 3, Sil Sila (33-1). 9 ran. 6l, 2l. H Cecil. Tote: £1.20; £1.00, £22.70, £3.60. DF: £70.30. Trio: £517.70. CSF: £19.37.

3.40 (1m) 1, Tharhea (T Quinn, 9-2); 2, Polar Prince (8-1); 3, Carburton (2-1 fav). 7 ran. 5l, 3½l. B Millman. Tote: £5.70; £3.00, £2.70. DF: £38.20. CSF: £34.30.

4.15 (7f) 1, Satin Bell (R Hughes, 14-1); 2, Aunty Jane (11-2); 3, Divine Quest (7-2 jt-fav). Taking Liberties 7-2 jt-fav. 17 ran. 3½l, 6l. J Dunlop. Tote: £21.90; £3.80, £2.00, £2.10. DF: £63.00. Trio: £121.80. CSF: £94.35.

4.45 (5f 34yd) 1, Anzio (R Cochrane, 6-1); 2, Top Banana (6-1); 3, Daring Destiny (10-1). Lord High Admiral 9-2 fav. 13 ran. NR: Macfarlane, Spaniards Close. ¾l, 3½l. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £8.30; £2.30, £1.80, £4.50. DF: £29.30. Trio: £138.00. CSF: £39.35. Tricast: £336.35.

5.15 (2m) 1, Kadastrof (Dane O'Neill, 5-1); 2, Kamikaze (33-1); 3, Corradini (2-1 fav). 8 ran. 6l, 11l. R Dickin. Tote: £7.40; £1.70, £2.30, £1.30. DF: £32.70. CSF: £102.35. Tricast: £390.56.

Jackpot: £40,421.50 (0.9 winning tickets. Pool of £5,693.17 carried forward to Newbury today).

Placepot: £84.80. Quadpot: £53.60.

Thirsk

Going: good to firm

2.15 (1m) 1, Rambo Waltzer (Alex Greaves, 3-1 fav); 2, Wentbridge Lad (20-1); 3, Chairmans Choice (8-1); 4, Edgar Kirby (8-1). 16 ran. NR: Master Charter, Scorpius. Hd, nk. D Nicholls. Tote: £4.20; £1.50, £5.00, £1.80, £1.70. DF: £67.80. Trio: £172.40. CSF: £63.01. Tricast: £432.12. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

2.50 (6f) 1, Golden Pound (K Fallon, 9-2); 2, Baileys First (5-1); 3, Alamoir (11-10 fav). 6 ran. 3l, hd. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £4.50; £1.50, £2.70. DF: £7.60. CSF: £25.21.

3.20 (5f) 1, Jennelle (J Stack, 13-8 fav); 2, Double Park (4-1); 3, Hit Or Miss (7-1). 6 ran. 1¾l, 2½l. C Dwyer. Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £1.80. DF: £5.10. CSF: £8.46.

3.50 (5f) 1, Angaar (D Harrison, 6-1); 2, French Grit (9-1); 3, Here Comes A Star (16-1). Splinter 7-4 fav. 8 ran. Hd, nk. A Stewart. Tote: £7.00; £2.40, £1.70, £3.40. DF: £44.10. CSF: £53.51.

4.25 (1m 4f) 1, Benatom (A McGlone, 11-8); 2, Nayib (8-1); 3, Clerkenwell (8-11 fav). 7 ran. Nk, 11l. H Cecil. Tote: £2.20; £1.20, £2.70. DF: £9.40. CSF: £12.91. Clerkenwell finished second but after a stewards' inquiry was placed third.

4.55 (7f) 1, Primo Lara (M Henry, 5-4 fav); 2, Ochos Rios (16-1); 3, Nashaat (14-1); 4, Selhurstpark Flyer (14-1). 16 ran. 3½l, 1l. P Harris. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £3.50, £3.10, £3.00. DF: £27.40. Trio: £169.50. CSF: £26.82. Tricast: £229.36.

Placepot: £108.90. Quadpot: £61.20.

Ayr

Going: good to soft (soft in places)

2.00 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Celtic Giant (T Reed, 4-1); 2, Spaceage Gold (14-1); 3, Bold Account (8-1). Baronet 2-1 jt-fav. 8 ran. Nk, 5l. L Lungo. Tote: £4.70; £1.10, £2.90, £1.30. DF: £23.10. CSF: £46.68.

2.35 (2m hdle) 1, Cittadino (M Foster, 12-1); 2, Penrose Lad (7-2); 3, Supreme Genotin (7-4 fav). 9 ran. 5l, ¾l. C Thornton. Tote: £10.10; £2.00, £1.40, £1.50. DF: £14.10. Trio: £16.10. CSF: £49.41.

3.05 (2m 4f ch) 1, Major Bell (A Dobbin, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, Five To Seven (11-4 jt-fav); 3, Old Bridge (10-3). 6 ran. 7l, dist. A Whillans. Tote: £3.50; £1.70, £1.90. DF: £3.80. CSF: £9.36.

3.35 (3m 1f ch) 1, Merlin's Lad (M A Fitzgerald, 7-2); 2, Savoy (1-2 fav); 3, Seeking Gold (16-1). 4 ran. Nk, 10l. J Edwards. Tote: £3.00. DF: £1.50. CSF: £5.61.

4.05 (2m ch) 1, Dear Do (M A Fitzgerald, 5-2 fav); 2, One For The Pot (9-1); 3, Newlands-General (11-4). 6 ran. ¾l, ¾l. N Henderson. Tote: £2.80; £2.00, £2.10. DF: £9.10. CSF: £19.87.

4.35 (2m hdle) 1, Miss Greenyards (D Parker, 4-1 fav); 2, Current Speech (8-1); 3, Sarmatian (11-2). 12 ran. 3l, ¾l. A Whillans. Tote: £7.80; £2.90, £2.10, £1.60. DF: £27.30. Trio: £25.80. CSF: £36.78. Tricast: £170.94.

Placepot: £257.40. Quadpot: £21.20.

☐ Kieran Fallon was suspended for six days (April 29-May 4 inclusive) for irresponsible riding on Clerkenwell in the Sowerby Maiden Stakes at Thirsk yesterday. Clerkenwell finished second to Benatom but after a stewards' inquiry was placed third.

THIRSK

THUNDERER

2.15 Caviar And Candy. 2.50 Soldier Mak. 3.20 Tenor. 3.50 Ramooz. 4.20 Venture Capitalist. 4.50 Nose No Bounds. 5.20 Cashmere Lady. 5.50 Belzao.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.15 KNAYTON CLAIMING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,653: 5f) (8 runners)

1 JIB JAB D Nicholls 9-3 Alex Greaves 3
2 60 THE BEE MAN 2 M W Easterby 8-13 G Parkin (5) 5
3 LOXLEY'S GIRL M W Easterby 8-8 Dale Gibson 7
4 CANTSAYNOWT R Fahey 8-6 A Culhane 1
5 343 CAVIAR AND CANDY 8 D Cosgrove 8-4 M Henry (5) 4
6 5634 CHILLED WINE 8 N Bycroft 8-4 G Carter 8
7 42 DANCING STAR 12 P Evans 8-2 J Quinn 6
8 45 MILL END GIRL 8 M W Easterby 8-2 J F Egan 2

3-1 Dancing Star, 7-2 Caviar And Candy, 5-1 Jib Jab, Chilled Wine, 7-1 The Bee Man, 8-1 Loxley's Girl, 10-1 others.

2.50 RACING CHANNEL RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: £2,408: 7f) (9)

1 556- CALLING 1933 W Brisbourne 5-9-10 D Griffiths (5) 1
2 5330 YOUNG BENSON 12 B McMahon 4-9-10 G Carter 2
3 30-0 FOUR LANE FLYER 12 E Alston 4-9-7 S D Williams 3
4 3-00 HARRY'S TREAT 16 J Eyre 4-9-7 D Pears (3) 6
5 04-0 MELLORS 12 J Toller 3-8-11 K Fallon 4
6 40-3 NAKHAL 26 (V) D Murray Smith 3-8-11 R Hills 7
7 6-00 ONLY 16 R Hannon 3-8-11 R Perham 5
8 000- SOLDIER MAK 165 A Hide 3-8-11 M Tebbutt 8
9 054- SUPERMISTER 231 T Easterby 3-8-11 A Culhane 9

9-4 Nakhal, 9-2 Young Benson, Mellors, Only, 7-1 Supermister, 8-1 Harry's Treat, 10-1 Four Lane Flyer, 12-1 others.

3.20 THOMAS LORD HANDICAP (£6,368: 5f) (18)

1 04/ LAUREL DELIGHT 619 (D,F,G) J Berry 6-10-0 P Roberts (5) 11
2 0/0- FOR THE PRESENT 335 (F,G) T Barron 6-9-11 J Fortune 6
3 45-2 LADY SHERIFF 7 (CD,BF,F,G) R Hollinshead 5-9-5 F Lynch (5) 5
4 03-1 LATCHING 12 (G) R Johnson Houghton 4-9-4 R Hills 10
5 5-00 FANTASY RACING 12 (D,F,G,S) M Channon 4-9-4 Candy Morris 14
6 60-0 CALL ME I'M BLUE 12 (D,G,S) N Tinkler 6-9-2 T Ives 12
7 6-00 SADDLEHOME 12 (D,F,G,S) T Barron 7-9-2 J Fanning 4
8 00-0 INSIDER TRADER 12 (V,D,F,G) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-0 K Fallon 7
9 113- SURPRISE MISSION 301 (D,F,G) R Whitaker 4-8-13 A Culhane 8
10 121- ROYAL DOME 199 (D,F,G) M Wane 4-8-10 J Carroll 16
11 -032 LA SUQUET 2 (D,F) N Tinkler 4-8-10 — 1
12 00-6 BEAU VENTURE 12 (D,F,G,S) F Lee 8-8-5 R Lappin 9
13 1400 SHADOW JURY 12 (B,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 6-8-3 L Charnock 2
14 00-0 JUST DISSIDENT 10 (F) R Whitaker 4-7-12 Dale Gibson 3
15 22-0 STUFFED 12 (C,BF,F) M W Easterby 4-7-12 J F Egan 15
16 -000 STEPHENSONS ROCKET 10 (B,CD,F,G,S) D Nicholls 5-7-10 J Quinn 18
17 3332 TENOR 5 (CD,G) D Nicholls 5-7-10 N Varley (3) 17
18 -022 MONTRESTAR 7 (V,D,F) P Evans 3-7-10 Iona Wands (7) 13

7-2 Latching, 6-1 La Suquet, 7-1 Tenor, 8-1 Surprise Mission, 10-1 Insider Trader, Lady Sheriff, 12-1 others.

3.50 THIRSK CLASSIC TRIAL CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £9,470: 1m) (7)

1 521- TAMHID 185 (F) H Thomson Jones 9-5 R Hills 5
2 41- ALI-ROYAL 200 (S) H Cecil 9-0 W Ryan 1
3 213- BAHAMIAN KNIGHT 303 (F) D Loder 9-0 D R McCabe 4
4 1- CLASSIC EAGLE 186 (D,S) S Williams 9-0 A Mackay 3
5 04-3 WISAM 16 (BF,F) R Hannon 9-0 R Perham 6
6 114- RAMOOZ 195 (D,F,S) B Hanbury 8-11 J Stack 7
7 30- VAN GURP 209 B McMahon 8-11 G Carter 2

4-5 Ali-Royal, 9-4 Bahamian Knight, 5-1 Wisam, 8-1 Tamhid, 10-1 others.

4.20 MICHAEL FOSTER MEMORIAL CONDITIONS STAKES (£5,790: 6f) (7)

1 00-3 VENTURE CAPITALIST 21 (CD,F,G) D Nicholls 7-9-12 Alex Greaves 5
2 01-1 CARRANITA 21 (D,F,G,S) B Palling 6-9-7 J Carroll 6
3 000- DOUBLE BLUE 189 (C,D,F,G,S) M Johnston 7-9-7 J Weaver 3
4 0-45 CASTLEREA LAD 10 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 7-9-0 T Ives 7
5 60-1 ATRAF 16 (D,F,G) D Morley 3-8-11 R Hills 1
6 126- MAZEED 231 (D,F) H Thomson Jones 3-8-11 G Carter 4
7 426- NO MONKEY NUTS 169 (D,F) J Berry 3-8-3 P Fessey (5) 2

9-4 Atraf, 7-2 Double Blue, 4-1 Carranita, 9-2 Venture Capitalist, 8-1 Mazeed, 16-1 Castlerea Lad, No Monkey Nuts.

4.50 BUSINESS FURNITURE CENTRE LIMITED STAKES (£3,134: 1m 4f) (11)

1 6515 FORZAIR 10 (D,G) J J O'Neill 4-9-9 S D Williams 6
2 5060 DVORAK 51 (D,F) R Harris 5-9-8 A Mackay 5
3 24-4 CONTRAFIRE 12 (F,G) W Jarvis 4-9-7 M Henry (5) 2
4 30-5 DOMAPPEL 12 (BF,G,S) Mrs J Cecil 4-9-7 J Weaver 3
5 000- PERCY PARROT 152 R Whitaker 4-9-7 A Culhane 10
6 00-6 ROYRACE 16 W Brisbourne 4-9-7 D Griffiths (5) 1
7 23-6 SHERAZ 25 N Tinkler 4-9-7 G Carter 7
8 40-6 TESSAJOE 14 (D,F,G) M Camacho 4-9-7 L Charnock 4
9 -130 BALIOS 12 (BF,G) M Johnston 3-8-4 J Fanning 9
10 6-26 NOSE NO BOUNDS 2 (G) M Johnston 3-8-2 T Williams 11
11 005- CEILIDH STAR 193 B Hills 3-7-13 J F Egan 8

2-1 Contrafire, 5-1 Ceilidh Star, 6-1 Domappel, 7-1 Forzair, Nose No Bounds, 8-1 Tessajoe, 10-1 Balios.

5.20 LEVY BOARD FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,925: 1m) (13)

1 0-55 QUEENS CONSUL 8 (CD,F,G) B Rothwell 6-9-13 J Fortune 9
2 500- MA PETITE ANGLAISE 175 (D,F,G) W Jarvis 4-9-11 T Thomas (7) 1
3 -251 CASHMERE LADY 36 (D,G) J Eyre 4-9-9 R Lappin 12
4 00-6 GLOWING JADE 18 (D,F,G) J Glover 6-9-0 G Carter 5
5 120- GYMCRAK FLYER 209 (D,F,G) G Holmes 5-8-10 K Fallon 3
6 106- THREE ARCH BRIDGE 201 (B,D,F,G) M Johnston 4-8-10 J Weaver 4
7 13- CLASSIC ROMANCE 192 (S) R Harris 3-8-9 A Mackay 8
8 032- ANGEL CHIMES 182 (G) J Banks 3-8-9 J Stack (3) 2
9 00-0 HEY UP DOLLY 9 (B,C,G) J J O'Neill 4-8-4 J F Egan 13
10 564- PENDLEY ROSE 205 P Harris 3-7-10 J Quinn 10
11 140- ALFAYZA 218 (F) J Bethell 3-7-10 D Wright (3) 11
12 5-01 DANCE OF JOY 12 (D,G) J Carr 4-7-10 N Kennedy 7
13 00-0 MISS IRON HEART 16 D Cosgrove 4-7-10 M Baird (5) 6

7-2 Cashmere Lady, 6-1 Three Arch Bridge, 7-1 Ma Petite Anglaise, 8-1 Queens Consul, Alfayza, Angel Chimes, 10-1 Gymcrak Flyer.

5.50 RACING CHANNEL RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: £2,408: 7f) (9)

1 -022 BACKHANDER 16 M Wane 4-9-10 J Carroll 2
2 334- BELZAO 285 M Channon 3-8-11 P P Murphy (5) 6
3 00-0 FINISTERRE 24 J J O'Neill 3-8-11 J F Egan 9
4 00-5 MANOY 12 J Hetherton 3-8-11 N Kennedy 3
5 00-5 TOE TAPPIN MUSIC 17 M Meade 3-8-11 V Slattery 5
6 -344 CLASSIC BEAUTY 38 R Harris 3-8-8 A Mackay 8
7 6500 SCENICRIS 11 R Hollinshead 3-8-8 F Lynch (5) 4
8 046- SIS GARDEN 168 T Easterby 3-8-8 M Birch 1
9 000- WILLISA 182 J Bethell 3-8-8 J Weaver 7

7-4 Belzao, 4-1 Backhander, 5-1 Willisa, 6-1 Sis Garden, 8-1 Scenicris, 10-1 Classic Beauty, Toe Tappin Music, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H Cecil, 8 winners from 21 runners, 38.1%; Mrs J Cecil, 3 from 9, 33.3%; B Hills, 4 from 13, 30.8%, M Camacho, 5 from 19, 26.3%, W Jarvis, 4 from 16, 25.0%; B Hanbury, 4 from 21, 19.0%.

JOCKEYS: R Hills, 12 winners from 50 runners, 24.0%; W Ryan, 9 from 43, 20.9%; J Weaver, 17 from 87, 19.5%, D Pears, 4 from 28, 14.3%, K Fallon, 11 from 89, 12.4%, A McGlone, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

STRATFORD

THUNDERER

5.30 Harding. 6.00 Conti D'Estruval. 6.30 Children's Choice. 7.00 Bells Life. 7.30 Sheer Jest. 8.00 Anlace.

Carl Evans: 7.30 Blue Cheek.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

5.30 JENKINSONS NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,794: 2m 6f 110yd) (17 runners)

1 1346 HARDING 17 (S) S Mellor 5-11-4 N Mann
2 -260 AH THERE YOU ARE 52 K Bailey 7-10-12 T J Murphy (3)
3 CROSS THE RUBICON C Brooks 5-10-12 S McNeill
4 0 DERRING JACK 35 A Carroll 5-10-12 J F Titley
5 2006 GLAMANGLITZ 47 P Dalton 6-10-12 T Eley
6 044 MASTER HOPEFULL 10 G Balding 7-10-12 R Greene
7 PU MR SOX 31 Miss L Shally 5-10-12 M Brennan
8 0-00 MUMMY'S MOLE 24 Graeme Roe 5-10-12 Sharon Graham (7)
9 -040 NITRE 52 G Jones 8-10-12 Philip Hughes (7)
10 0P63 NO MORALS 25 J Upson 5-10-12 M A Fitzgerald
11 3/0 POLLYKENDU 70 R Brotherton 8-10-12 G Tormey (3)
12 2343 SIMPLE SIMON 31 D Nicholson 6-10-12 G Hogan (3)
13 102P TIPPING THE LINE 64 (BF,G) M Pipe 6-10-12 O Burrows (7)
14 0304 AUNTIE ALICE 11 J Fitzgerald 6-10-7 F Leahy (3)
15 KINTINO M Wilkinson 6-10-7 J Frost
16 P BLUE AND ROYAL 54 Miss J Doyle 4-10-5 S Curran
17 0 ROOKERY GIRL 14 Mrs E Heath 4-10-0 Mr J Harty (7)

7-2 Simple Simon, 4-1 Harding, 5-1 Tipping The Line, 6-1 Cross The Rubicon, 7-1 Auntie Alice, 8-1 Master Hopefull, 10-1 others.

6.00 LAURENT-PERRIER HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,861: 2m 4f) (9)

1 -P14 PASHTO 22 (D,F,G,S) N Henderson 9-12-0 M A Fitzgerald
2 F-F5 BEECH ROAD 63 (CD,F,G,S) G Balding 14-11-12 J Frost
3 644U BAVARD DIEU 21 (D,F,G,S) N Gaselee 8-11-11 J F Titley
4 P062 WISE APPROACH 10 (C,D,F,G,S) K Bailey 9-11-11 S McNeill
5 4520 LAKE MISSION 38 (D,G) Mrs J Pitman 11-11-1 G Hogan (3)
6 5111 CONTI D'ESTRUVAL 10 (D,F,G) G Balding 6-10-11 A P McCoy
7 1150 MUSKORA 22 (B,D,F,G) P Hobbs 7-10-6 G Tormey (3)
8 1412 RUSTIC AIR 12 (D,BF,G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-10-1 W Dwan
9 2U-1 ARMALA 12 (D,F,G,S) J Gifford 11-10-0 L Aspell (5)

9-4 Conti D'Estruval, 4-1 Rustic Air, 9-2 Wise Approach, 5-1 Pashto, 7-1 Bavard Dieu, Armala, 10-1 Beech Road, 14-1 others.

6.30 AHP TRAILERS WOMBOURNE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,598: 2m 110yd) (17)

1 0310 WEEHEBY 17 (B,D,F) M Barraclough 7-12-0 G Tormey (3)
2 1 EBEN AL HABEEB 28 (S) D McCain 5-11-13 D McCain
3 P223 STATELY HOME 10 (F) P Bowen 5-11-8 O Burrows (7)
4 5212 CYRUS THE GREAT 12 (D,F) K Bailey 4-11-8 T J Murphy (3)
5 00-P DUVEEN 78F (BF) J White 6-11-6 R Greene
6 160 OUR ROBERT 33 (D,S) J Fitzgerald 4-11-5 F Leahy (3)
7 2461 TERAYESTELIGN 5 (D,G) D Marks 8-11-4 (6ex) A P McCoy
8 -5P0 DONTFORGET INSIGHT 102 C Brooks 5-10-10 J Frost
9 0051 POLY AMANSHAA 12 (D,G) M Banks 4-10-9 D Skyrme
10 4512 JAVA SHRINE 12 (D,F) J Tuck 5-10-8 S McNeill
11 6001 VERDE LUNA 12 (F) D Arbuthnot 4-10-7 J F Titley
12 002P PORTSCATHO 7 Miss J Doyle 4-10-7 S Curran
13 6304 ZINGIBAR 12 (V,D,S) J Bradley 4-10-7 M A Fitzgerald
14 5605 SAN DIEGO CHARGER 12 A Barrow 5-10-5 Sophie Mitchell (5)
15 P502 LOWAWATHA 12 Mrs E Heath 8-10-4 Mr J Harty (7)
16 00F0 CHILDREN'S CHOICE 31 (BF) C Allen 5-10-4 N Mann
17 6-00 B MY LOVELY 17 D O'Neill 6-10-3 G Hogan (3)

9-2 Terayesteligin, 5-1 Cyrus The Great, 6-1 Eben Al Habeeb, 7-1 Poly Amanshaa, 8-1 Lowawatha, Weeheby, 10-1 Our Robert, 12-1 others.

7.00 COVENTRY PROFILE NOVICES CHASE
(£5,345: 3m) (5)

1 8111 BELLS LIFE 12 (S) P Hobbs 7-11-3 G Tormey
2 U211 GREY SMOKE 25 (D,F,G,S) Miss H Knight 6-11-3 J F Titley
3 45F2 SEOD RIOGA 12 (F,G,S) S Mellor 7-11-3 N Mann
4 5F03 DUKE OF LANCASTER 12 (B) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-12 G Hogan
5 -00U DESERT MIST 12 (B,F,G) Miss L Shally 7-10-7 M Brennan

6-4 Bells Life, 2-1 Grey Smoke, 5-2 Seod Rioga, 12-1 Duke Of Lancaster, 20-1 Desert Mist.

7.30 GRIMLEY-INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY ADVISERS BIRMINGHAM HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £2,234: 2m 5f 110yd) (16)

1 -11F SHEER JEST 47 (CD,BF,F,G,S) W Warner 11-12-10 A Hill (3)
2 -RU1 MR GOLIGHTLY 17 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Cobden 9-12-7 Mrs J Reed (7)
3 BP-3 AMARI KING 17 (C,D,F,G,S) J Wall 12-12-0 C Ward Thomas (7)
4 5-32 ANOTHER CORAL 43 (D,F,G,S) P Webber 13-12-0 R Lawther (7)
5 442P ANTRIM COUNTY 12 (S) J Cornwall 11-12-0 J R Cornwall (7)
6 1P-U BLUE CHEEK 21P (F,G,S) J Mahon 10-12-0 N Bradley (7)
7 1331 BRIGHT BURNS 21P (B,F,G,S) C Sweeting 11-12-0 Rupert Sweeting (7)
8 2-14 DREWITTS DANCER 7P (F,S) Mrs A Hawkins 9-12-0 M Gorman (7)
9 0550 FLYING ZIAD 28P (D,F,G) S Stratford 13-12-0 Miss D Olding (7)
10 PFP4 GREY TUDOR 14P N Warner 9-12-0 A Sansome (5)
11 U1SP PERCY THROWER 24 (B,S) N Twiston-Davies 9-12-0 A Balding (7)
12 -UPP RECTORY BOY 42P (F,S) B Llewellyn 13-12-0 J L Llewellyn (5)
13 -035 SOCIAL CLIMBER 17 (G,S) S Gilmore 12-12-0 L Lay (7)
14 44-2 SPACE FAIR 47 (F,G,S) S Christian 13-12-0 T McCarthy (5)
15 5/U5 SYLVAN SIROCCO 28P A Taylor 9-12-0 D Drinkwater (7)
16 3F-P GAN AWRY 58P (F,G) A Peachey 9-11-9 Miss S Duckett (7)

2-1 Sheer Jest, 5-1 Space Fair, 6-1 Percy Thrower, 7-1 Mr Golightly, 8-1 Another Coral, 12-1 Amari King, Drewitts Dancer, 14-1 others.

8.00 RICHARDSON DEVELOPMENTS OLDBURY MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,058: 2m 110yd) (9)

1 0511 SHARKASHKA 32 (D,F,G) T Easterby 6-11-11 A P McCoy
2 3823 WREN WARBLER 39 (D,S) Mrs P Robeson 6-10-10 Mr R J Barrett (7)
3 10- SPRINGFIELD DANCER 349 (S) P Hobbs 5-10-3 G Tormey (3)
4 003P HANDY LASS 12 (F,G,S) J Smith 7-10-3 T J Murphy (3)
5 6230 ANLACE 19 (D,F,G) S Mellor 7-10-0 N Mann
6 4-16 SIAN WYN 10 (D,F) K Burke 6-10-0 R Supple
7 0252 DAILY SPORT GIRL 6 (CD,G,S) B Llewellyn 7-10-0 Mr J L Llewellyn
8 062 LEGATEE 12 (V) A Streeter 5-10-0 T Eley
9 0026 FABRIANA 35 T Naughton 6-10-0 G Hogan (3)

6-4 Sharkashka, 9-2 Daily Sport Girl, 11-2 Wren Warbler, 7-1 Springfield Dancer, 8-1 Anlace, 10-1 Legatee, Sian Wyn, 16-1 others.

ASCOT

THUNDERER

5.15 Fine Sir. 5.45 Flapjack Lad. 6.15 Synderborough Lad. 6.45 Wild Strawberry. 7.15 Nemuro. 7.50 Intermagic.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

5.15 SILVER WILKINSON NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,826: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

1 412F DARK STRANGER 28 (BF,S) C Brooks 5-11-13 D Gallagher
2 3206 DJAIS 22 (D,G) J Jenkins 7-11-13 S Fox (3)
3 P BUCKMAN 168 Mrs J Pitman 6-11-7 I Lawrence
4 00- COMMANDER TOM 532 T Clement 7-11-7 V Smith
5 /3-3 FINE SIR 29 T Thomson Jones 6-11-7 J R Kavanagh
6 HOH WARRIOR C Brooks 5-11-7 E Murphy
7 0P0 KEY TO MOYADE 24 M Wilkinson 6-11-7 P Crowley (7)
8 506F COMPUTERAID LADY 32 R Curtis 6-11-2 D Walsh (5)

6-4 Dark Stranger, 9-4 Djais, 7-2 Fine Sir, 5-1 Hoh Warrior, 16-1 Buckman, 20-1 Key To Moyade, 25-1 others.

5.45 STOATS TAIL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,956: 2m 3f 110yd) (12)

1 1343 REVE EN ROSE 18 (D,F,G,S) M McMillan 10-11-12 J R Kavanagh
2 F231 MR PRIMETIME 12 (F) C Brooks 6-10-13 D Gallagher
3 1353 SMILING CHIEF 14 (G,S) R Hodges 8-10-12 Mr P Henley (5)
4 4F21 HERBERT BUCHANAN 9 (D,F) P Nicholls 6-10-11 B Clifford
5 05P1 STAR OF DAVID 12 (V,F,G) Miss A Embiricos 8-10-9 J Ryan
6 63P2 STAGE PLAYER 26 (F,G) Miss C Caroe 10-10-5 I Lawrence
7 3F3F FLAPJACK LAD 8 (S) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-3 D Walsh (5)
8 0P41 CRACKLING FROST 12 (G) Mrs D Haine 6-10-0 Mr R Wakley (7)
9 0566 BALAAT 31 (F) M Chapman 8-10-0 W Worthington
10 5UP3 JIMMY THE JACKDAW 12 (V) P Butler 9-10-0 B Fenton (3)
11 42P3 UPWARD SURGE 14 (F) R Ledger 6-10-0 Mrs N Ledger
12 6FPP JAYSMITH 44 (F,G) J Poulton 10-10-0 P Crowley (7)

3-1 Mr Primetime, 7-2 Herbert Buchanan, 6-1 Reve En Rose, 7-1 Star Of David, 8-1 Smiling Chief, 10-1 Flapjack Lad, 12-1 others.

6.15 TRICOLOUR AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,572: 3m 110yd) (11)

1 2400 BAS DE LAINE 23 (F,G) O Sherwood 10-12-0 A Harvey (7)
2 1323 HARWELL LAD 25 (F,G,S) R Alner 7-11-9 R Nuttall (7)
3 -4F4 SYNDERBOROUGH LAD 22 (CD,F,G) S Pike 10-11-9 S Mulcaire (7)
4 -341 BUCK WILLOW 12 (D,F,G,S) J Gifford 12-11-6 Miss A Embiricos (7)
5 3P5F GIVUS A BUCK 14 (B,D,F,G,S) D Elsworth 13-10-13 E James (7)
6 5P12 FULL OF FIRE 12 (D,F,S) K Bailey 9-10-8 M Armytage
7 PPP4 POLAR REGION 14 (D,F,G,S) N Henderson 10-10-8 C Vigors (5)
8 -82P DESPERATE 24 (G,S) O Sherwood 8-10-7 P Scott (7)
9 1021 VICOSA 18 (F,S) R Alner 7-10-5 P Henley (5)
10 6-03 SEMINOLE PRINCESS 12 (B) C Hemsley 8-10-0 Miss A Dudley (7)
11 0PP3 MILO BOY 7 M Chapman 5-10-0 M Mackley (7)

9-4 Buck Willow, 3-1 Full Of Fire, 5-1 Vicosa, 8-1 Bas De Laine, Desperate, Polar Region, 10-1 Harwell Lad, 12-1 others.

6.45 GREEN HIGHLANDER HANDICAP HURDLE
(£5,836: 2m 110yd) (11)

1 FP40 BARNA BOY 22 (C,G,S) N Henderson 8-11-11 J R Kavanagh
2 6435 NON VINTAGE 7 (CD,G,S) M Chapman 5-11-4 W Worthington
3 0411 GROUND NUT 10 (D,F,S) R Buckler 6-11-0 G Supple (7)
4 5015 ALBEMINE 21 (D,F,G) Mrs J Cecil 7-10-11 T Kent
5 3601 FROZEN SEA 9 (F) G Enright 5-10-5 D Gallagher
6 3631 SUIVEZ 7 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 6-10-5 P Hide
7 2030 MISTER DRUM 89 (D,G,S) M Wilkinson 7-10-2 P Crowley (7)
8 2402 WINDWARD ARIOM 24F (D,F,G,S) K Burke 10-10-1 G Ryan (5)
9 -12F WILD STRAWBERRY 56F (D,F,G) Miss B Sanders 7-10-0 S Ryan (5)
10 4312 JOSIFINA 14 (D,F,S) M McCormack 5-10-0 I Lawrence
11 0P6R BROWNSIDE BRIG 36 (D,F,G) D Sherwood 11-10-0 J A McCarthy

4-1 Suivez, 9-2 Ground Nut, 5-1 Albemine, 7-1 Non Vintage, Josifina, 8-1 Frozen Sea, 10-1 Windward Ariom, 12-1 others.

7.15 BLACK DOCTOR NOVICES CHASE
(£4,788: 2m) (6)

1 4F11 CHURCHTOWN PORT 26 (D,S) P Butler 6-11-10 J A McCarthy
2 551F NEMURO 23 (B,F,G,S) D Elsworth 8-11-10 P Hide
3 3452 FIERCE 12 (V,D,F,G,S) J Jenkins 8-11-7 J Railton
4 UFP2 FULL OF TRICKS 12 J Bridger 8-11-2 D Walsh
5 4-04 ICE MAGIC 12 (V) F Yardley 9-11-2 B Fenton
6 F042 SIZZLING AFFAIR 12 (BF) M Wilkinson 7-11-2 P Crowley

6-4 Nemuro, 9-4 Churchtown Port, 4-1 Fierce, 7-1 Sizzling Affair, 8-1 Full Of Tricks, 25-1 Ice Magic.

7.50 WILLIE GUNN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£5,084: 2m 110yd) (9)

1 P122 AMAZE 9 (D,BF,S) Lady Herries 7-11-10 E Murphy
2 2F21 INTERMAGIC 7 (CD,G,S) J Fox 6-11-7 S Fox (3)
3 3012 THE BOUNDER 12 (B,D,BF,F,G) O Sherwood 6-11-7 J A McCarthy
4 3650 PHAR FROM FUNNY 49 G Balding 5-10-10 B Fenton (3)
5 F22- I HAVE HIM 327 (F,G) N Chance 9-10-10 D Finnegan (7)
6 1 NESCAF 11 (D,F) C Mann 6-10-8 J Railton
7 U502 EXCLUSION 11 (D,F) J Hetherton 7-10-7 R Marley
8 2305 KING'S GOLD 18 Mrs L Richards 6-10-0 D Gallagher
9 P-43 MUTLEY 12 N Hawke 6-10-0 G F Ryan (5)

7-4 Intermagic, 9-2 The Bounder, 5-1 Nescaf, 7-1 Amaze, 8-1 Mutley, Exclusion, 10-1 King's Gold, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Hodges, 5 winners from 22 runners, 22.7%; O Sherwood, 14 from 66, 21.2%, C Mann, 3 from 17, 17.6%, K Bailey, 9 from 53, 17.0%, Mrs J Pitman, 7 from 42, 16.7%; R Alner, 4 from 24, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: No qualifiers.

Blinkered first time

ASCOT: 7.50 The Bounder. BANGOR: 3.45 Lord Of The West, Russell Dalus. STRATFORD: 6.30 Weeheby. THIRSK: 2.50 Nakhal, 3.20 Stephensons Rocket.

BANGOR

THUNDERER

2.10 Whattabob. 2.40 Ryde Again. 3.10 Mt Rundle. 3.45 Feels Like Gold. 4.15 Three Saints. 4.45 Teaplanter. 5.15 Bushehr.

Carl Evans: 2.40 Ryde Again. 4.45 Teaplanter.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY PATCHES) SIS

2.10 CREWE NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,284: 2m 4f) (18 runners)

1 6215 AROUND THE GALE 42 (BF,S) D Gandolfo 5-11-9 D Fortt (5)
2 1045 GREEN CRUSADER 10 (V,S) Mrs V Ward 5-11-9 M Foster
3 1240 ISLAND VISION 17 (D,F) J O'Shea 6-11-9 Michael Brennan (7)
4 -321 MACGEORGE 56 (S) R Lee 6-11-9 R Greene
5 2134 MR CONDUCTOR 12 (G) R Alner 5-11-9 W McFarland
6 2130 WHATTABOB 38 (F,S) N Henderson 7-11-9 M A Fitzgerald
7 01-3 AUT EVEN 32 (G) T Forster 6-11-3 S Wynne
8 5 GUTTERIDGE 133 S Christian 6-11-3 J Lodder
9 0 JASON'S PET 29 C Cowley 5-11-3 Mr M Smith
10 JOELRICH S Brookshaw 5-11-3 T Eley
11 OLIVER-J 886F J Mackie 5-11-3 R Supple
12 5 PHARDANTE'S WAY 22 (BF) D Nicholson 5-11-3 A P McCoy
13 ANNSGROVE POLLY O Brennan 7-10-12 M Brennan
14 00 CAROLINES PRINCESS 28 S Coathup 5-10-12 Mark Brown (7)
15 06 MRS ROBINSON 56 J Mackie 5-10-12 E Husband (3)
16 0-00 PARTY LADY 126 A J Wilson 7-10-12 L Harvey
17 TIMUR'S STAR J Parkes 7-10-12 A Thornton
18 04 EUROLINK SHADOW 31 D McCain 4-10-10 D McCain

3-1 Macgeorge, 4-1 Around The Gale, 5-1 Mr Conductor, Phardante's Way, 6-1 Whattabob, 10-1 Green Crusader, 12-1 others.

2.40 OVERTON OPEN HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,861: 2m 4f 110yd) (14 runners)

1 -634 AL HASHIMI 31 (D,F,G,S) N Ridout 12-12-7 N Ridout (7)
2 20-U LUMBERJACK 51 (B,D,G,S) C Egerton 12-12-7 A Sansome (5)
3 02F1 MY NOMINEE 14P (B,C,F,G,S) D Nicholls 8-12-7 A Griffith (7)
4 B11F RYDE AGAIN 25 (D,F,G,S) Miss C Saunders 13-12-7 T Marks (7)
5 U1P2 SQUIRRELLSDAUGHTER 12 (C,BF,F,G,S) S Brookshaw 9-12-2 Miss S Beddoes (7)
6 0111 AMBROSE 14P (F,G,S) Mrs T Ritson 9-12-0 W Ritson (7)
7 005- ELEGANT FRIEND 210F (G,S) T Darlington 8-12-0 M Smith (7)
8 -UPP KALI SANA 17 M Hill 8-12-0 DOUBTFUL
9 5/PP KING OF SHADOWS 31 (B) Miss C Carden 9-12-0 S Prior (7)
10 4412 PARLIAMENT HALL 42P (D,F,G,S) S Shirley-Beavan 10-12-0 Miss S Forster (7)
11 PFP SHAREEF STAR 27P (S) F Matthews 8-12-0 I Johnson (7)
12 2262 SIMPLY PERFECT 14P (BF,G,S) J Swindells 10-12-0 Miss S Swindells (7)
13 5-53 THE MOSSES 21P (C,D,F,S) C Sample 11-12-0 D Wood (7)
14 -PPF DOC LODGE 21 (B) S Baker 10-11-9 S Baker (7)

6-4 Ryde Again, 9-2 My Nominee, 5-1 Simply Perfect, 7-1 Ambrose, 8-1 Squirrellsdaughter, 10-1 Al Hashimi, 12-1 Lumberjack, 14-1 others.

3.10 HALLIWELL LANDAU NOVICES CHASE
(£3,896: 2m 1f 110yd) (6)

1 1-U1 JURZ 23 (G,S) R Hodges 8-11-9 W McFarland
2 50F1 MT RUNDLE 21 (S) S Brookshaw 7-11-9 A P McCoy
3 2/P BENTLEY MANOR 11 (G,S) K Bridgwater 7-11-3 R Supple
4 -PFF COPPER CABLE 43 C Smith 9-11-3 M Ranger
5 3F24 POUCHER 21 (BF,S) T Forster 6-11-3 S Wynne
6 -PP0 SARSTA GRAI 11 (F) P Wegmann 8-10-12 T Eley

5-4 Jurz, 6-4 Mt Rundle, 5-1 Poucher, 8-1 Bentley Manor, 16-1 others.

3.45 CHORLTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,679: 3m) (20)

1 0200 FEELS LIKE GOLD 23 (S) M Pipe 8-11-12 J Lower
2 533- ANDERMATT 357 (G) J Mackie 9-11-6 E Husband (3)
3 0435 TEEN JAY 10 (F,G,S) B Llewellyn 6-11-4 D Skyrme
4 U1FF THREE PHILOSOPHERS 29 (G,S) T Forster 7-11-4 S Wynne
5 P10P LORD OF THE WEST 22 (B,G,S) J J O'Neill 7-11-0 A Roche (3)
6 0132 FOXTROT ROMEO 31 (S) C Brooks 6-10-13 M Berry (7)
7 -432 MARINERS MIRROR 35 (C,G,S) N T-Davies 9-10-12 T Jenks
8 15F1 BONE SETTER 12 (F,G,S) S Mellor 6-10-11 Chris Webb (5)
9 5352 ROYAL PIPER 10 (S) A J Wilson 9-10-11 L Harvey
10 112- FIRST CRACK 343 (F,G,S) F Jordan 11-10-9 J Lodder
11 0005 RIMOUSKI 47 (CD,G) B Cambidge 8-10-8 Mr J Cambidge
12 32/P RUSSELL DALUS 24 (V,S) S Sherwood 9-10-3 D Fortt (5)
13 0351 PHARARE 28 (CD,F,S) R Woodhouse 6-10-2 A S Smith
14 0P31 WAGGID 123 (V,G,S) W Clay 8-10-2 Guy Lewis (3)
15 P3-3 JAMESTOWN BOY 28 (B,C,F,G,S) B Preece 8-10-2 Gary Lyons
16 P-10 APPLAUDER 63 (D,S) P Beaumont 7-10-0 R Supple
17 0145 MARINE SOCIETY 7 (S) A Newcombe 8-10-0 A Thornton
18 /6-0 SKIRCOAT GREEN 12 (D,G,S) P Beaumont 11-10-0 B Grattan (7)
19 63P0 DERRING VALLEY 31 (B,F,G,S) A Jones 11-10-0 W McFarland
20 UP04 I'M TOBY 31 (D,G) A Foster 9-10-0 K Gaule (3)

5-1 Royal Piper, 6-1 Feels Like Gold, 7-1 Bone Setter, 8-1 First Crack, Mariners Mirror, 9-1 Foxtrot Romeo, 10-1 Jamestown Boy, 12-1 others.

4.15 BROOKES BELL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,501: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 -3F1 THREE SAINTS 28 (CD,S) T Forster 7-12-0 S Wynne
2 1U02 SOPHISM 14 (B,BF,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-13 J Lower
3 223- WALLS COURT 355 J Birkett 9-11-11 L O'Hara
4 3P-2 INDIAN RUN 21 (G) R Hodges 7-11-6 W McFarland
5 5R3 CHOISTY 39 Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-5 J Railton
6 U-00 BADRAKHANI 51 (G,S) C Nash 10-10-12 T Jenks
7 2233 JASON'S BOY 12 (CD,F,G,S) J Bradley 6-10-11 D Fortt (5)
8 0PF2 FUNCHEON GALE 31 R Curtis 9-10-5 D Morris
9 P445 FLYNN'S GIRL 39 Mrs J Pitman 7-10-1 A Thornton
10 P0U4 SOLAR WARRIOR 12 J Ffitch-Heyes 6-10-0 D Bentley
11 -P50 JUST FOR A LAUGH 45 J Needham 9-10-0 M Foster

3-1 Three Saints, 7-2 Funcheon Gale, 4-1 Walls Court, 5-1 Sophism, 6-1 Choisty, 7-1 Jason's Boy, 10-1 Indian Run, 20-1 others.

4.45 JANE McALPINE MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,040: 3m 110yd) (8)

1 2-11 FIDDLERS THREE 27P (B,G,S) I Wynne 13-12-7 I Wynne (7)
2 U303 GREEN TIMES 14P (D,G,S) Mrs J Storey 11-12-7 Capt W Ramsay (7)
3 F114 HOWARYASUN 24 (V,D,G,S) Mrs C Hardinge 8-12-7 D S Jones (7)
4 P3U1 KILMINFOYLE 20P (D,F,G) S Shirley-Beavan 9-12-7 Miss S Forster (7)
5 2121 TEAPLANTER 12 (CD,F,G,S) Miss C Saunders 13-12-7 B Pollock (5)
6 44PF QUEEN'S CHAPLAIN 22 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Morris 12-12-4 A Sansome (5)
7 -121 PEAJADE 35P (D,F,G,S) Miss J Wormall 12-12-0 Miss J Wormall (7)
8 21/P SAUSALITO BOY 38 (F,S) R Smith 8-12-0 J Trice-Rolph (5)

4-5 Teaplanter, 3-1 Peajade, 5-1 Fiddlers Three, 10-1 Howaryasun, 12-1 Kilminfoyle, 20-1 Sausalito Boy, 40-1 others.

5.15 EMRAL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,249: 2m 1f) (20)

1 044F GALLARDINI 21F (D,BF,G) B Rothwell 7-12-0 M Moloney
2 15F0 CAPTAIN TANDY 10F (D,F,S) C Smith 7-11-8 M Ranger
3 23F0 YER 'UMBLE 11 (V) J Cresswell 5-11-6 W McFarland
4 0021 RAIN-N-SUN 14 (F,G,S) J L Harris 10-11-4 J Lodder
5 0035 BANANA COVE 29 (D,F) W Clay 5-11-4 Guy Lewis (3)
6 6663 NAGARA SOUND 31 B Preece 5-11-3 Gary Lyons
7 5555 DESERT FORCE 6F (D,BF,F,G,S) G Fierro 7-11-2 S Lycett (7)
8 -5P6 LITTLE GUNNER 21 R Price 6-11-1 D Bentley
9 4125 NESSUN DORO 12 (B,BF,S) S Mellor 4-11-1 Chris Webb (5)
10 2221 BRIGHT NOVEMBER 12 (F) Mrs H Parrott 5-11-1 D Leahy
11 1338 MINSTER'S MADAM 19 (V,CD,S) J Neville 5-11-1 T Jenks
12 000- MUHTASHIM 374 (D,S) J Ffitch-Heyes 6-11-0 A Thornton
13 1/0 BEAUFAN 10 (F,G,S) B Cambidge 9-10-13 S Wynne
14 0564 RAGGERTY 29 (V,D,S) Miss K Whitehouse 6-10-13 W Humphreys
15 1/3 HIGHLY REPUTABLE 12 (F,G) G Bravery 6-10-12 K Gaule (3)
16 4301 BE BRAVE 21 (D,S) T Etherington 6-10-11 R Rourke
17 0024 BUSHEHR 11 S Coathup 4-10-10 C Rae (7)
18 -606 TEXAS SCRAMBLE 28 (D,G,S) B Baugh 7-10-10 M Foster
19 -020 IAN'S BID 19 C Broad 6-10-8 R Massey (5)
20 P30F SHANAKEE 30 (F) B Llewellyn 9-10-5 DOUBTFUL

5-1 Be Brave, 6-1 Rain-N-Sun, 7-1 Nagara Sound, 8-1 Bright November, Bushehr, 9-1 Highly Reputable, 10-1 Nessun Doro, Minster's Madam, 12-1 others.

Saturday portrait: Jimmy White, by Simon Barnes

Sublime talent who has incurred substantial out-of-pocket expenses

ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MARTIN

Claim to fame: I once belonged to the same snooker club as Jimmy White. No, I did not give him five blacks start and take him on for a monkey a frame. I nodded to him when I saw him, which was most days. I was a south London journo; he was a south London story.

"Allo, Jimmy."

"Allo, mate."

Always terrifically amiable; always something completely remote about him. Even then, in a way, he seemed quite untouchable. And he was but 14. I would go in to play a quick frame and miss a few reds, always given, thank the Lord, a table right at the back of the room. It was always just after work, down at the Pot Black club a few minutes walk from Clapham Junction. White would be there with a group round table one, where he had been all day. He should have been at the Ernest Bevin comprehensive, but there he was, learning things that school could not teach him.

How to stay cool in a money match; how to make machine-gun breaks that snap an opponent's nerve like a stick of barley sugar; how to pocket balls with a crash that might dent the brass rail behind the pocket; how to trickle the next shot with gossamer delicacy. Surrounded by people, for even then he had his hangers-on, but also, always quite alone.

Black hair and a face of deathly pallor; nothing has changed much there. He had a transplant for the hair when it got thin, but there is nothing you can do about the pallor. I doubt if he has ever seen the sun. A creature of the dark, with a slightly wolfish grin.

And always that sense of not quite being there, lost in a mental universe of colliding spheres. Perhaps it was the sheer beauty of his game that enraptured him. Many people still insist that he is the finest snooker player that ever drew breath.

Ball for ball, break for break, frame for frame, they are probably right. But not championship for championship. People say that Alex Higgins was a waster of his colossal gifts, but Higgins won the world championship twice.

White — how many people would include the word alas here? — has not won it once. Between 1990 and 1994 he lost the final of the world championship every year. Old snooker hands still talk about a black he missed against Stephen Hendry, a miss that allowed Hendry the implacable to march on.

"I don't want to be disrespectful to my fellow players," White once said, "but it is a joke how I keep losing to so many mugs." I don't want to be disrespectful to Jimmy White — no one does — but winning is not really his greatest talent. Snooker is. He wins frames, not games; he wins games, not championships. He has won only nine world-ranking events in his career — this compared with 28 by Steve Davis, 24 by Hendry.

> 'Many people still insist that he is the finest snooker player that ever drew breath'

The last time he won one was in 1992, when he won the United Kingdom championship. White is living out the story of a sharp decline from a peak of underachievement. He is now trembling on the very edge of the top 16 in the world. Membership of that charmed circle means that you are seeded in competition: you do not meet Hendry in the first round.

White needs to win at the world championship, which begins today at the Crucible in Sheffield. No, not win the tournament, just win his first round match; and that looks problem enough. It takes place on Wednesday and Thursday. He plays a chap called Euan Henderson. Only if he wins can White be sure of staying in the elite next season.

It is a personal battle of some magnitude. And naturally, Henderson has beaten him before. Most people have, though White has never been known to offer an excuse. "My opponent played great." That has always been his way.

A vignette of the recent snooker life of Jimmy White: In February this year, White is playing an exhibition with John Virgo in Leicester. Exhibitions have rather gone out of fashion, but there is still endless demand for White. And in seven frames, he knocked off two 147 breaks. Willie Thorne, who has seen a fair amount of snooker in his time, came out wagging his cue ball of a head and muttering "fantastic, fantastic."

But it does not seem to happen in matches these days. White is a bit like the bowler who is unplayable in the nets but, as soon as he gets on the pitch, he cannot bowl a hoop down a hill. It is not precisely the yips, just a suicidal tendency every now and then to miss a ball that even Barnes could pot. And that is a truly fatal deficiency.

But even in disaster, he is loved. Everyone loves White. He has been called snooker's Barry Manilow, because of the love he inspires among housewives. But Jack-the-lads love him just as well. The temptation to pair him with Higgins is overwhelming, and must be resisted at all costs. Higgins is a disaster area in many ways, but he has those two world championships. And it is hard in snooker to find a good word for anything about Higgins except his mostly extinguished talent. White is as well loved as ever.

Booze is not a straightforward subject with either man. But where Higgins has always been a career drinker, White has been a dilettante, tending to go on the odd binge when he cannot play big-time snooker. It has still caused him problem enough. He got caught driving four times over the limit, and did 120 hours of community service as a result. It has made for a somewhat turbulent marriage with Maureen, a girl he met (where else?) in a fish and chip shop in Tooting during his Pot Black snooker club days.

He has four daughters, to whom he is devoted; the youngest is called Breeze. He has the same concentration in money matters as he does in crucial frames of snooker — not quite enough. He has won more than £3 million in prize-money, but never seems quite as well-off as he should be, though he does have a stockbroker-style house in Surrey.

Last year he had a testicle removed when he had cancer in that particularly alarming place. He met that emergency with frank terror and brave jokes. As ever, he handled things with a certain sheepish panache.

White is always seen as a bad lad without an ounce of harm in him. His respect for the game he plays borders on the religious. He calls his own fouls — a minute feathering of the cue ball, an inadvertent nudge with the waistcoat. Failure to do so would be a kind of blasphemy to him.

I once had breakfast with him the morning after he had spent the evening with Higgins. Unable to face tea, he blindly requested a glass of water and winced when he drank from it. My whole being responded in sympathy. But, even *in extremis*, he was courteous, pleasant, charming.

I always remember the best snooker I ever saw in my life. I went to the Crucible for the second day of the final in 1984. I almost did not bother. White began it 12-4 down to Davis. But round about midnight on that second day, the match was at last over and Davis all but speechless with admiration. He had been outplayed. "Jimmy played his brains out," Davis said at last. For Davis could not play like that to save his life, and he knew it and he acknowledged it.

Davis won, of course, 18-16. Yes, White lost again. But gloriously; always gloriously.

Title run means the world to Hendry

By Phil Yates

RECENT form aside, there is an overwhelming body of evidence which supports the theory that, on May 6, Stephen Hendry will equal the modern record of six Embassy world snooker championship titles jointly held by Ray Reardon and Steve Davis.

Today, Hendry begins his attempt to lift the game's most coveted trophy for the fifth year in succession. If, as expected, he comfortably negotiates the first round by defeating Jason Ferguson, of Mansfield, Hendry will extend his unbeaten run of matches at the Crucible, Sheffield, to 21 matches.

It is an uninterrupted spell of dominance that has eclipsed the efforts of Davis, who, by winning the championship in 1987, 1988 and 1989 and reaching the semi-finals in 1990, set the former record with 18 consecutive victories.

Even though Hendry turned professional seven years after Davis, his great rival, he is top of many statistical career lists. He has compiled 338 century breaks in competition, 92 more than Davis, and, with the £200,000 first prize from the championship this year, the Scot would carry his total tournament earnings to £4,824,175.

Not for the first time, Hendry arrives at the Crucible saddled with a string of surprising defeats in the second half of the season. Crucially, though, these have been the result of an inspired performance from his opponents and/or a lack of concentration and motivation on his part.

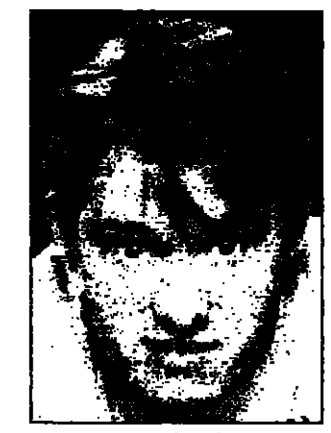
During his many exhaustive practice sessions at Spencers, Stirling, Hendry has continued to strike the ball with great authority and regards early elimination from the International Open, European Open, Irish Masters and British Open as irritating rather than worrying.

Those failures disguise the fact that the 1995-96 campaign has been another memorable one for Hendry, during which three-quarters of his personal grand slam has already been achieved. In September, Hendry beat Peter Ebdon 9-5 to win the Regal Scottish Masters on home soil; two months later, Ebdon was again his victim, this time by 10-3, in the final of the United Kingdom championship; and, in February, Hendry prevailed in the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley for the sixth time in eight years by defeating Ronnie O'Sullivan 10-5.

"Before the season began, I made it clear that those three events and, of course, the world championship were my main targets, and so far I've hit three of them," Hendry said. "When you've achieved so much, it's difficult to get the necessary incentive week after week, but I have proved again this season that, when I'm tuned in, I tend to play at my peak.

"If you can't get the adrenalin flowing at the Crucible it's time to quit. I can't say that about every tournament but I honestly look forward to the championship. It's special to me, even now."

Last weekend, Hendry beat Ebdon and Davis 5-3 to reach the semi-finals of the Matchroom League. He is relatively fresh and determined to repel any challenge, not only for the title, but for his long-held status as world No 1.


Hendry: dominance

Having won the German Open and International Open and figured in the finals of the Grand Prix and British Open, John Higgins finds himself breathing down Hendry's neck. The 975 ranking-points deficit faced by Higgins means that he only has to win one more match than Hendry at Sheffield to replace him in the No 1 position.

An all-Scottish final between the two is a distinct possibility even though Higgins, on his only previous appearance at the Crucible, was beaten 10-3 by Alan McManus in the first round of the event last year.

Higgins, 20, who by capturing the title would also supersede Hendry as the youngest winner in the 69-year history of the championship, has the level-headed nature required to meet the particular demands of the Crucible — the need to perform at or near optimum efficiency for 17 days under ever-increasing pressure.

That does not apply to O'Sullivan, another 20-year-old who, though more mature than Higgins in many respects off the table, refuses to abandon the cavalier tendencies that have undermined the chances of many naturally talented players at Sheffield. O'Sullivan can be outstanding for a session or two but, at some point, encounters a bad patch in which he struggles to rise above mediocrity.

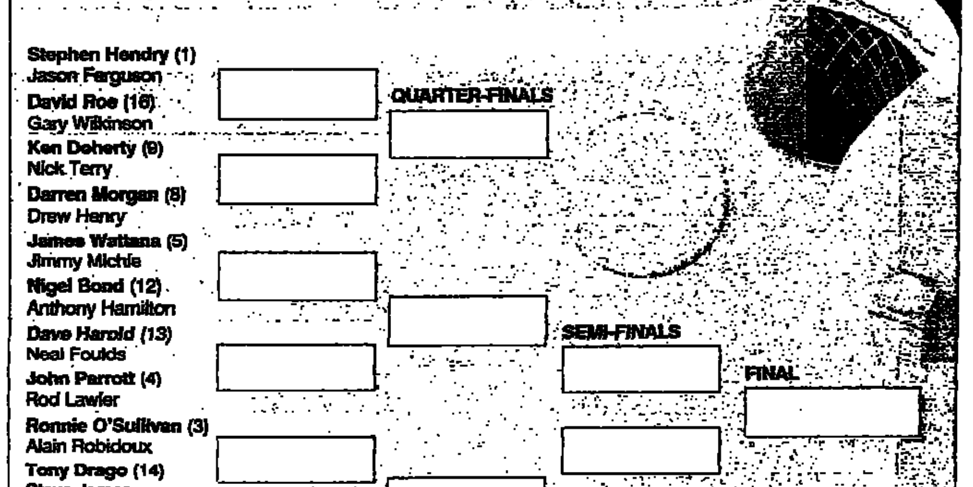
Ebdon, McManus, Ken Doherty and John Parrott, the 1991 world and United Kingdom champion who has won the Thailand Classic and European Open this season, all have the credentials to press Hendry, but Davis and Jimmy White are unlikely to do so.

Even though his safety remains in a league of its own, Davis has not added to his 70 career titles since the Regal Welsh Open of January 1995 and has reached the quarter-finals of only one of the nine ranking tournaments contested this season.

White, the championship's perennial nearly-man, having tasted defeat in six finals, has slumped to such an extent that he must beat Euan Henderson, of Glenrothes, in the opening round merely to ensure his continued occupancy of a place in the top 16 next season. The repeated insistence from White that, in practice and on the exhibition circuit, he is playing as well as ever points to growing anxiety and diminishing confidence as the causes of his slide.

He has failed to win an event of any description since the 1993 Matchroom League and one has to go back to the 1992 United Kingdom championship to unearth his last success in a ranking event. It is a barren spell that puts Hendry's minor troubles over the past couple of months into perspective.

EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW



First-round (April 20-25): best of 19 frames. Second-round and quarter-finals (April 25-29, April 30-May 1): best of 25 frames. Semi-finals (May 2-4): best of 31 frames. Final (May 5-6): best of 35 frames.

Prize money this year totals £1.2million. Champion £200,000. Runner-up £120,000. Losing semi-finalists £60,000. Losing quarter-finalists £30,000. Second round losers £16,000. First round losers £9,000. Highest break £17,000.

Bond targeted by Musketeer

GIANT-KILLERS at the Crucible have been in short supply in recent years, but Anthony Hamilton has the potential to fill that role by beating Nigel Bond, the winner of the British Open two weeks ago, in their first-round match, which starts on Monday (Phil Yates writes).

Hamilton, a 24-year-old from Nottingham, completed a notable double last summer by winning the Australian Open and Australian Masters but has yet to display such form under the scrutiny of the television cameras and against the leading exponents of the game.

In appearance, Hamilton is unconventional. He arrived at the Thailand Classic with his eyebrow pierced, his taste in fashion leans towards grunge and he briefly earned the nickname D'Artagnan when sporting a beard that gave him the look of a Musketeer.

> British Open winner faces threat from potential giant-killer

He is, however, completely orthodox when it comes to snooker. A sound technique combined with shrewd tactical awareness have enabled him to climb the world-ranking ladder steadily since he joined the professional ranks in 1991. His great strength, though, is break-building.

Hamilton: unconventional

Bond, who beat John Higgins 9-8 on the black in the final of the British Open, could be vulnerable to self-imposed pressure. Having triumphed in Plymouth and reached the final at the Crucible 12 months ago, he will have high expectations. In addition, overcoming Hamilton would go a long way to securing his place in the England team for the World Cup, alongside John Parrott and Peter Ebdon.

Bond, who readily admits he is a slow starter, has also practised with Hamilton on numerous occasions. Consequently, he knows his opponent's capabilities and will therefore not possess the same edge of perceived superiority displayed by the majority of his fellow seeds.

Ebdon puts heart into uncovering winning formula

Phil Yates discovers how a children's film inspired the season's most consistent player

IF SELF-BELIEF, single-minded commitment and rare ability to relish pressure guaranteed success, Peter Ebdon, one of the realistic challengers to Stephen Hendry's Embassy world championship domination, would have a bulging trophy cabinet.

As it stands, this disciplined, ambitious son of a prison officer is finding that a prodigious practice schedule, clean living and an utterly professional approach have proved insufficient to convert consistency into silverware.

Ebdon has climbed from tenth to fourth in the provisional world rankings this season. He has appeared in four finals, three semi-finals and, regardless of his performance at the Crucible, in Sheffield, will represent England at the World Cup in October.

Yet, with all that, Ebdon remains frustrated. He needs a spark and is desperately hoping the inspiration he always draws from merely walking into the Crucible will provide that catalyst.

Despite being involved at the business end of virtually every tournament he has contested during the 1995-96 campaign, Ebdon's appetite for titles has stayed largely unassuaged, his only triumph coming at the relatively low-key Rothman's Malta grand prix in November.

Even so, a succession of near misses — he lost to Hendry in the final of the Regal Scottish Masters and United Kingdon championship and to John Parrott in the European Open — have not eroded Ebdon's resolve. At 25, he is a long way removed from the pony-tailed rookie who astoundingly beat Steve Davis 10-4 in the first round of the 1992 world championship.

He is devoted to his wife, Deborah, and dotes on his daughter, Clarissa. Indeed, it was while watching Clarissa's favourite video, *The Lion King*, that Ebdon put into perspective his own role in snooker's circle of life. "One of the characters tells his son, 'you are more than you have become', and that really struck a chord with me," Ebdon said. "There's no doubt in my mind that that statement applies to me. I know it's only a cartoon, but I think the sentiment fits my circumstances perfectly.

"I put so much into my matches it hurt me more to lose than other players. I convert emotional energy into effort on the table and sometimes you can't help thinking if all the heartache of defeat is really worth it. Those thoughts don't last long, though."

Ebdon, who faces Dene O'Kane in the first round, has, along with Hendry, Parrott and John Higgins, the necessary mental steel to survive the 17-day marathon of the mind which is the world championship. It remains to be seen whether the burden of so many recent disappointments will weigh Ebdon down or fuel his already raging competitive fire.

Ebdon: remains frustrated

Like all of his fellow competitors, Ebdon must realise the importance of playing to his strengths. He is undoubtedly at his best when adopting an attacking philosophy but, of late, he has proceeded at a progressively slower pace. Elimination of mistake-inducing haste is one thing, compromising your natural style for the sake of conservatism is another.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Scot one stroke behind leaders

Montgomerie well positioned for first American win

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN HILTON HEAD ISLAND

THE tournament the week after a Major championship inevitably throws up players who have run into form a few days later than they would have wished. For example, what would Vijay Singh have given for the 63 he had in a pro-am last Wednesday to replace the 82 with which he finished in the Masters last Sunday?

Colin Montgomerie is another case in point. Having started the MCI Classic here with a comfortable 69, he added a 66 to it yesterday, playing as well as he knows he can. His form now is in marked contrast to the 75s he had in his third and fourth rounds at Augusta.

Montgomerie's dip in form in the first Major championship of the year is all the more puzzling because he had been playing so well before the Masters and is clearly playing just as well now. He came second in the The Players' Championship at Jacksonville last month and now, at seven under par, is just one stroke behind Jeff Sluman and Tom Watson, the leaders here after 36 holes.

Montgomerie's elusive first victory in the United States cannot be long delayed and if there is one course on which he would predict it would come, it is the Harbour Town Links. "This course is as right for me as any," Montgomerie said. Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus designed it several decades ago to discover the game's best shot-makers, men who are straight from the tee and can move the ball from right to left, and left to right as well.

Dye designed a few bunkers with railway sleepers — what they call railroad ties over here — supporting the face and he and Nicklaus, intent upon devilry, gave the holes some of the smallest greens ever seen on a championship course.

Norman: previous winner

If they wanted to identify the game's true champions, they succeeded. Previous winners include Nick Faldo, Hale Irwin, Watson, Johnny Miller, Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Greg Norman and Payne Stewart. If you can tell a man by the books he reads, then you could surely tell a championship by its list of winners.

This event, then, would be a good one for Montgomerie to win, as he clearly could. He has already picked up £221,000 since he arrived on these shores nearly a month ago and, though he is competing in his fourth successive event, he shows no particular signs of fatigue.

Spurred on by the support of his father, who has walked every step of the two rounds so far, Montgomerie seems to have reacquainted himself with the putter that completely lost its effectiveness on the hard and fast greens of the Augusta National club.

"I have only dropped two shots in two days so that is good," Montgomerie, who returns home on Monday, said. "I am playing well and I'm looking forward to the weekend. The difference between this week and last has been my putting. Last week I couldn't hole them, this week I can."

Wearing a shirt so red it might have been Welsh, Montgomerie made his way around the par-71 course with hardly a hint of difficulty. There was less wind than the previous day and less sun, too. He was one of the first players to start and so the greens had not become spiked up. This undoubtedly contributed to his better putting.

Montgomerie holed from 20 feet on the 1st, chipped close on the 2nd, reached the green of the long 5th in two and hit a five-iron from 194 yards to within three feet at the 8th. There had been no hint of a mistake so far and when one came, he got it over and done with quickly. On the 10th, his second shot clipped a branch of a tree and fell back and he dropped a stroke.

He quickly got back to playing near faultless golf, hitting a wedge to within eight feet and holing the putt on the 13th and then cleverly sinking a downhill 15-footer on the 17th green.

As the ball began rolling slowly towards the hole, several spectators shouted: "It's in, it's in." Eventually, it dropped, for his sixth birdie of the day. Montgomerie was desperately close with a 20-foot putt on the last, too.

EARLY SECOND-ROUND LEADERS (US unless stated): 134: J Sluman 67, 67; T Watson 67, 67 135: C Montgomerie (Scot) 69, 66, J Maggert 69, 66; L Roberts 66, 69 136: B Kamm 73, 63, D Love III 68, 68; R Mediate 68, 68, C Beck 69, 67 137: T Tolles 69, 68; B Tway 67, 70; D Edwards 68, 69, V Singh (Fiji) 70, 67; P Azinger 71, 66. 138: C Rymer 68, 70; G Norman (Aus) 69, 69 139: B Lohr 68, 71; J D Blake 69, 69. N Price (Zim) 72, 67; J Haas 72, 67; R Cochran 71, 68 140: J Wilson 72, 68; S Stricker 76, 64; L Rinker 69, 71; M Dawson 72, 68; P Mickelson 74, 66, H Royer III 71, 69. 141: J Sindelar 71, 70; S Verplank 71, 70; M Brisky 71, 70; O Uresti 72, 69; M Hulbert 72, 69; S Gump 73, 68, G Sauers 69, 72; F Funk 73, 68. 142: B Chamblee 76, 66; M Brooks 73, 69; A Bean 73, 69

Material gains no big deal to Carter

FROM MEL WEBB IN CANNES

NICK FALDO might have three green Masters jackets — but David Carter had two of them by the time he was 11. The only difference is that Carter, who set a new course record in the second round of the Cannes Open here yesterday, subsequently had his golfing mementoes purloined, whereas Faldo's collection is still in his locker at Augusta National.

Carter, a pencil-slim and modest 23-year-old, told his tale of sartorial trophies gained and lost after a 62 at Royal Mougins that beat the previous course record by two shots. His total of 132, ten under par, gave him a one-stroke lead over Padraig Harrington with Raymond Russell a further shot behind and Ignaçio Garrido fourth on seven under.

South African-born to British parents, Carter was but a golfing babe when he played in a mini-Masters event at Kyalami, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, his home town, and was presented with a jacket by none other than Bobby Locke. The next year he went back and won another, only to lose both when his parents' house was burgled.

Far from discouraging him from ever wanting to watch people don green jackets again, Carter said that he was glued to the television last weekend. Greg Norman's disintegration was compulsory viewing, he said. "There were great lessons to be learnt there," he said. "It showed what pressure can do to even the greatest players."

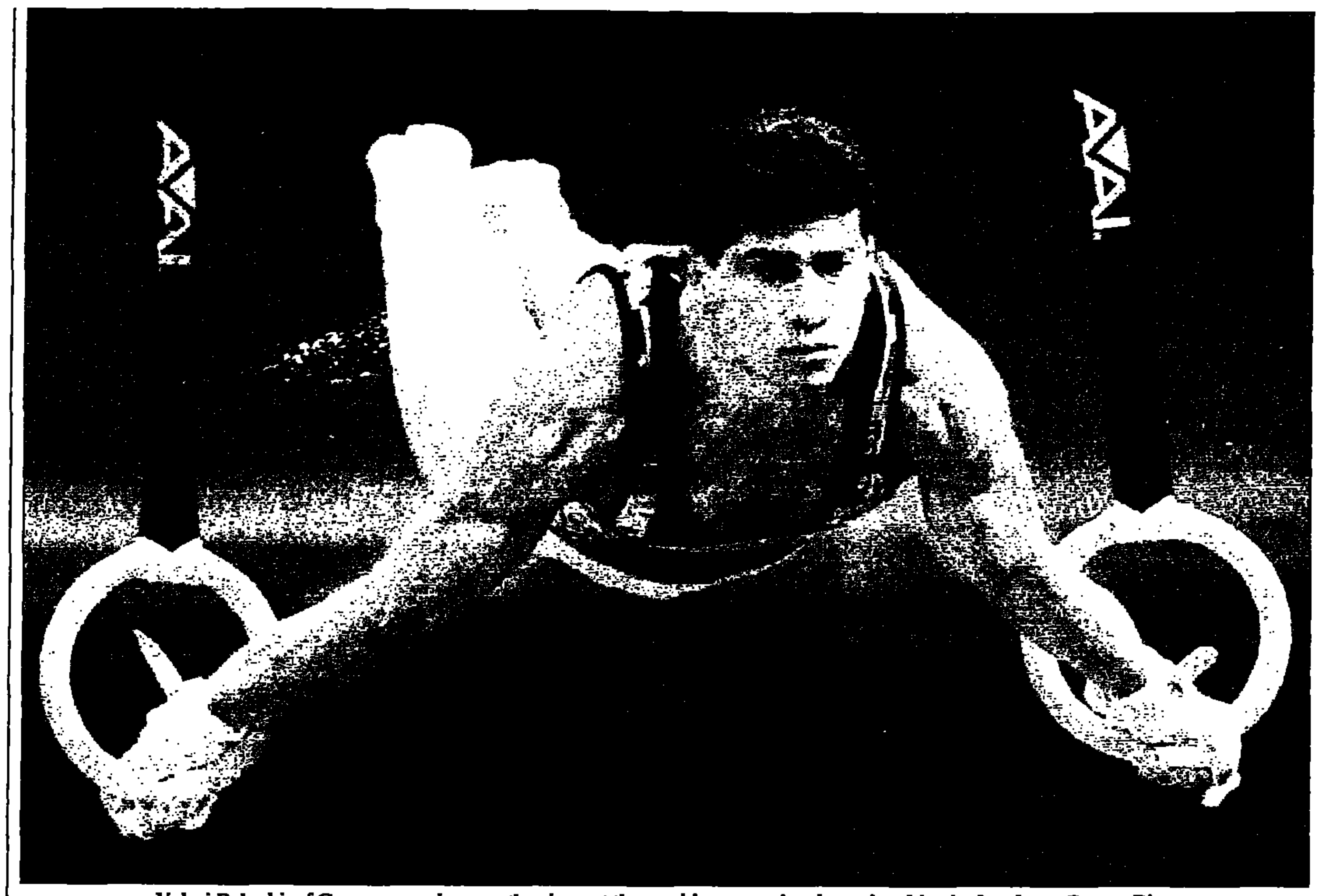
There was no question of collapse or anything like it as Carter went about his business, producing the best round of his life. He had five birdies going out and another five returning to the clubhouse, with only one bogey.

He went into a bunker at the last, but had he managed to hole his sand shot for an eagle he would have been in with 60, a feat performed only seven times in the history of the PGA European Tour.

The fact that he did not, then missed a curly ten-foot putt, did little to take the gloss off a remarkable performance.

Did he expect to shoot 62, somebody asked. "You don't expect to shoot 62," he said. "And if you do, then you definitely won't. No, it came as a nice surprise."

These days Carter plays out of Handley Wood Driving Range, near Chesterfield, which is owned by Bryan, his father, who taught his son the game and who now plays on the PGA European Seniors Tour. Carter Sr it was who helped to iron out a glitch that appeared in his son's swing during the winter. He seems to have done his job to perfection.



Valeri Belenki, of Germany, swings on the rings at the world gymnastics championships in San Juan, Puerto Rico

Deakin banned after video verdict

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE Rugby Football League (RFL) disciplinary committee yesterday meted out one of its stiffest penalties in banning Leigh Deakin, the Hull wing, for eight games and fining him £250 for a punch that broke the jaw of the Keighley Cougars full back, Andre Stoop. The injury will take two months to heal.

Keighley asked the RFL to view a video of the incident from the first division match on Easter Monday — a method of disciplinary control that is catching out increasing numbers of offenders. George Mann, the Leeds forward, was also caught on camera. He was initially placed on report for a high tackle by the referee at Oldham, then suspended for three matches by the committee yesterday.

In other disciplinary cases yesterday, Gary Charlton, the Carlisle loose forward, was suspended for three games for illegal use of the elbow and Tim Street, the Leigh prop forward, received a two-match ban for a high tackle.

David Bradbury, the Oldham Bears forward, faces Castleford Tigers tonight for the first time since receiving a three-month ban for a punch that broke the jaw of Lee Harland, the Castleford prop, a year ago.

"I deeply regret the incident and it was totally out of character," Bradbury said. "I wrote to Lee apologising, and I suppose there will be some extra tension in the match, but my main concern will be helping Oldham to win."

Bradbury returns to the second row in place of Gary Lord. Joe Faimalo switches to prop and Scott Ranson is back on the wing after four months on the sidelines, in place of Afi Leuila, who broke his leg in the defeat of Leeds. The Tigers, unbeaten in eight visits by the Bears, are hoping Lee Crooks will be back after a two-match absence for a match that will be televised live on Sky.

At Leeds, the absence of Mann, combined with injuries to two front-row players, Mick Shaw and Neil Harmon, has caused Dean Bell, the coach, to delay his team announcement for the visit tomorrow of third-placed Sheffield Eagles. Mike Forshaw, however, is fit to resume at loose forward.

Leeds's search for their first win is becoming increasingly desperate. "We need to stop the rot and quickly," Bell said. "We have had chances to win games and we probably should have won three of our four so far. We have just got to get on with the job."

Last season, Sheffield triumphed at Headingley for the first time in seven visits. Their buoyancy is such that they are favourites to repeat the trick. The Eagles' main worry is Mark Aston. Their goal-kicking scrum half has not trained since injuring an ankle in the defeat of London Broncos last week, but Waisale Sovatabua, Paul Dixon, Darren Turner and Richard Price are all available again.

Tas Baitieri, the Paris Saint-Germain manager, is under no illusions that the trip to Warrington tomorrow is his side's toughest assignment to date. Paris are undefeated at home, but lost their only previous away game, to London. Kava Utoikamanu, the former professional boxer from Tonga, comes in at prop for Jason Sands, who is committed to the French Cup semi-final with Limoux.

Warrington, with three wins out of four, start with Chris Rudd at centre and drop Mateaki Mafi down to the substitutes' bench, the only change from the side that defeated Halifax eight days ago.

Wembley beckons for Arnold

WHEN Joey Hayes pulled up with a recurrence of hamstring problems on Thursday, the dispute between him and Danny Arnold for the St Helens right wing place at Wembley next Saturday was cruelly, but instantly, resolved (Christopher Irvine writes).

For Hayes, scorer of 18 tries last season, it was a fourth breakdown in four months. Arnold, 19, was a stop-gap, moved from full back, yet the teenager has spearheaded St Helens' charge into the Challenge Cup final and their unbeaten Super League run, with a remarkable 14 tries in eight matches.

Shaun McRae, the St Helens coach, could still plump for the experience of Alan Hunte on the right flank, but with Arnold's present insatiable appetite, it is unthinkable. Workington, Wigan, Leeds and Bradford were all unable to cope with the long-striding wing. "I feel at the moment that, when I'm on the outside of someone, there's no one who could catch me," he said.

For the match tomorrow at Halifax, who are without a win, McRae's overriding priority, though, is for his players to forget about Wembley.

"All of a sudden, you can be on the back foot. I'm trying to drive it home to them not to worry about the final until next week, but it's a bit like trying to tell a kid that Christmas won't be coming."

Whitaker well placed to thwart Simon's ambition

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN GENEVA

FEW favourites can have fulfilled expectations as emphatically as Hugo Simon here on Thursday night in the first leg of the Volvo World Cup. Riding ET, his Hanoverian gelding, the 53-year-old Austrian showjumper — who has been seeking a second World Cup win since taking the inaugural event in 1979 — beat the Brazilian, Rodrigo Pessoa, 23, on Special Envoy, by 1.15sec.

Third place was filled by John Whitaker, of Britain, who has a third World Cup well within his sights after a fine performance on Grannusch. The old horse, brought here only for this first leg, could not have played his part better. The 17-year-old jumped each of the 13 fences faultlessly. "He was perfect," a delighted Whitaker said.

Luck, though, eluded Nick Skelton, of Britain, who is seeking a second successive win on Dollar Girl. The 16-year-old mare jumped beautifully round Paul Weier's demanding course but just touched the first part of Fence 11a, picking up a four-second penalty which dropped them to twelfth place.

Only one rider, Michael Matz, of the United States, has won the World Cup after finishing outside the top ten in the first leg, but that statistic has merely added fuel to Skelton's desire to succeed.

The Olympic champion, Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, riding Gaylord, found himself commiserating with Skelton. Beerbaum, the winner in 1993, is joint sixteenth after four faults at the penultimate fence and must now rely on mistakes by the leaders to move up.

Simon will not be easy to dislodge, although his chances this week were threatened when an infected elbow prevented him from riding for ten days and his top horse, Apricot, on whom he was fourth in 1994, suffered a severe bout of colic and had to be withdrawn.

But ET, the horse he will now ride throughout the competition, has limitless scope and, at nine, has youth on his side. Simon was unmoved by the news that both Pessoa and Whitaker are changing to fresh horses for the two remaining legs — Tom Tom and Welham respectively. As he was quick to point out, every winner of the competition so far has ridden only one horse in the final.

☐ Mark Todd, of New Zealand, and Britain's Kristina Gifford, Charlotte Bathe and William Fox-Pitt are among the riders having a last outing before Badminton (May 2-5) at the South of England Pedigree Chum Horse Trials at Ardingly this weekend.

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (AFL): Brisbane 18 7 (125) bt North Melbourne 14 11 (95)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-offs: Second leg: Birmingham 96 Derby 88 (Birmingham win 2-0); London Towers 94 Thames Valley 81 (London win 2-0)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Milwaukee 111 Charlotte 103; Cleveland 92 New York 77; Orlando 119 Atlanta 104; Chicago 110 Detroit 79; Dallas 132 Denver 98; Houston 115 Los Angeles Clippers 107; San Antonio 103 Los Angeles Lakers 100; Utah 94 Vancouver 79.

BADMINTON

HERNING, Denmark: European championships: Men: Singles: Quarter-finals: P-E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) bt J Olsson (Swe) 15-11, 15-10; J Olsson (Swe) bt D Hall (Eng) 9-15, 15-5, 15-12. J van Dijk (Holl) bt D Eriksson (Swe) 15-5, 15-7. P Rasmussen (Den) bt P Knowles (Eng) 15-7, 15-11. Semi-final: Hoyer bt Olsson 15-7, 15-3. Women: C Martin (Den) bt S Muller (Ger) 11-0, 11-0; C Magnusson (Swe) bt M Sorensen (Den) 12-10, 3-11, 11-5; M Yakusheva (Russ) bt M Pedersen (Den) 11-6, 11-5; A Sondergaard (Den) bt K Krasowska (Pol) 9-11, 11-9 11-4. Semi-final: Yakusheva bt Sondergaard 11-6, 11-9 Doubles: Semi-finals: M Thomsen and L Stuer-Lauridsen (Den) bt J Wright and J Bradbury (Eng) 15-12, 10-15, 15-4; R Olsen and H Kirkegaard (Den) bt K Schmidt and K Ubben (Ger) 15-6, 15-5 Mixed doubles: Semi-finals: S Archer and J Bradbury (Eng) bt R Michels and E van den Heuval (Holl) 15-11 15-12; M Sogaard and R Olsen (Den) bt M Keck and K Stechmann (Ger) 15-9, 15-10.

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CRICKET

County match

Lancashire v Yorkshire

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of three): Yorkshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 148 runs behind Lancashire

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

S P Titchard c Byas b Wharf	4
*M A Atherton c Blakey b Wharf	3
N J Speak c Blakey b Morris	12
G D Lloyd c Gough b Hamilton	33
A Flintoff c Morris b Gough	2
†W K Hegg c Blakey b White	27
I D Austin b Wharf	4
S Elworthy c Wharf b Vaughan	88
G Yates c White b Wharf	5
R J Green st Blakey b Fisher	14
G Keedy not out	8
Extras (b 1, lb 7, nb 4)	12
Total	212

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-14, 3-59, 4-63, 5-63, 6-67, 7-103, 8-122, 9-186.

BOWLING: Gough 18-7-37-1; Wharf 19-10-29-4; Hamilton 15-0-53-1, Fisher 9-2-29-1; White 13-3-43-1; Morris 5-1-11-1; Vaughan 1-0-2-1.

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

C J Schofield c Yates b Green	25
M P Vaughan b Austin	5
*D Byas not out	28
C White c Hegg b Green	0
R A Kettleborough not out	5
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (3 wkts)	64

†R J Blakey, A C Morris, D Gough, G M Hamilton, I D Fisher and A G Wharf to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-50, 3-50.

BOWLING: Elworthy 11-1-37-0; Austin 10-9-5-1; Green 8-2-17-2, Keedy 6-5-4-0; Yates 2-2-0-0

Umpires: G I Burgess and R Palmer.

No play yesterday

THE PARKS: Durham 334-0 dec (S Hutton 172 not out, M A Roseberry 145 not out) and 20-0; Oxford University 227-4 dec (C M Gupte 113 not out, I J Sutcliffe 65). Match drawn

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: English men's indoor championships: Singles: First round: J Leeman (Stanley) bt P Lawson (Plymouth CS) 21-10; P Dickins (Nottingham) bt T Webb (Cotswold) 21-12; D Hanmore (Royal Tunbridge Wells) bt J Evans (Teignbridge) 21-20, M Bantock (Desborough) bt A King (Old Mill) 21-12; S Warren (Westlecot) bt A Tidby (Dorchester) 21-19; I Wones (North Walsham) bt S Walker (Brackley) 21-7; G Sampson (Coventry) bt G Skipp (Thornaby) 21-16; B Jenkins (Cambridge Park) bt P Ayling (Tye Green) 21-11. Second round: L Gillett (Chipping Norton) bt M Keable (Towerlands) 21-8; S Skelton (Scunthorpe) bt M Selker (Cyphers) 21-16; J Stamper (Falcon) bt I McWhinney (City of Ely) 21-20; J Ottaway (Wymondham Dell) bt W Hobart (Boston) 21-15, Leeman bt Dickins 21-3, Bantock bt Hanmore 21-9; Wones bt Warren 21-19, Jenkins bt Sampson 21-13. Pairs: Semi-finals: Nottingham bt Chipping Norton 21-10; Grantham bt Dartford Stone Lodge 22-16

EQUESTRIANISM

GENEVA: Volvo World Cup: First leg: 1, ET (H Simon, Austria) 81.07; 2, Special Envoy (R Pessoa, Br) 82.22; 3, Grannusch (J Whitaker, GB) 83.81 Other rider: 12, Dollar Girl (N Skelton, GB) 88.30

FOOTBALL

BRAZIL: São Paulo championship: Second stage: Palmeiras 5 Uniao São Joao 0; Santos 2 Portuguesa 2; XV de Jau 1 Corinthians 2.

BUENOS AIRES: Libertadores Cup: Group five: First round: River Plate 2 Caracas 0.

Thursday's late results:

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-finals: Second leg: Paris Saint-Germain 1 Deportivo La Coruña 0 (Paris S-G won 2-0 on agg); Rapid Vienna 3 Feyenoord 0 (Rapid won 4-1 on agg)

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Witney 1 Ashford 2; Yate 4 Tonbridge Angels 0

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Kingstonian 0 Dulwich 2. Second division: Banstead 6 Hungerford 0; Bracknell 2 Edgware 3; Hemel Hempstead 0 Canvey Island 2. Third division: Aveley 1 Tring 0; Northwood 3 Harefield 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton 1 Tottenham 6; Charlton 1 Swindon 2. Second division: Cardiff 1 Birmingham 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton 1 Tranmere 0; Leeds 2 Oldham 1, Nottm Forest 1 Sheffield Utd 1; Sheffield Wed 2 Stoke 3; West Bromwich 2 Liverpool 1.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Ansells 5 Handrahan Timbers 1; Alvechurch Villa 0 Shirley 6; Massey Ferguson 1 Coventry Sphinx 2; Studley BKL 1 Olton Royale 2.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm 0 Mangotsfield 2

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Wisbech 1 Diss 2; Woodbridge 2 Fakenham 1

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough 2 Kidsgrove 1; Flixton 2 Bootle 0; Newcastle Town 3 Clitheroe 1.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Furness 1 Beckenham 0

GOLF

CANNES OPEN: Early leading second-round scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 132: D Carter 70, 62. 133: P Harrington 68, 65. 134: R Russell 66, 68. 135: I Garrido (Sp) 67, 68 136: P Mitchell 65, 71; C Rocca (It) 70, 66 137: P McGinley 65, 72. 138: R Dinsdale 70, 68. 139: P Affleck 71, 68; G Orr 71, 68, M Farry (Fr) 70, 69; J Sandelin (Swe) 70, 69; D Edmond (Swe) 71, 68; M Tunnicliff 67, 72; A Kankkonen (Fin) 70, 69; G Clark 71, 68; M Jonzon (Swe) 69, 70; F Roca (Sp) 64, 75; P Hedblom (Swe) 75, 64 140: G Turner (NZ) 71, 69; C Suneson (Sp) 73, 67 141: P Eales 71, 70; D Gilford 73, 68; P Nyman (Swe) 71, 70; C Hall 72, 69 142: I Pyman 70, 72; S Gallacher 76, 66, R Chapman 70, 72; J Piñero (Sp) 71, 71; B Lane 70, 72

WEST HILL GC: Father and Son foursomes tournament: Semi-finals: M and M Hickey (West Hill) bt G and M James (Walton Heath) 3 and 2; J and R Piggott (Littlehampton, Penvale) bt G and P Walker (Woking) 2 holes.

JOHN O'GAUNT: Gosen British Professional Tour qualifier: Leading scores: 132: C Goddard (Briggens House) 69, 63. 135: N Mitchell (Donnington Valley) 64, 71.

ICE HOCKEY

EINDHOVEN, Holland: World championships: Pool B, Switzerland 5 Poland 2; Latvia 15 Holland 3

RACKETS

NEW YORK: Lacoste world doubles championship: First leg: M Smith and S Hazell (GB) bt J Male and J Prenn (GB) 15-10, 15-12, 16-14, 15-11

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: British Land national under-24 championships: First round (GB unless stated): A Roberts-Miller and J Wilcocks bt D Chamberlain and A Snelgrove 6-4, 6-0; M Ward and C Swallow bt C Acheson-Gray and H Cox 6-2, 6-0 Quarter-finals: R Gunn and D Jones bt Roberts-Miller and Wilcocks 6-2, 6-4; I and B Ronaldson bt S and J Tomlinson 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. B Dale (Aus) and M Coghlan bt Ward and Swallow 6-5, 6-2; A Lyons and S Virgona (Aus) bt A Biosse and J Dawes 6-0, 6-1 Semi-finals: Gunn and Jones bt I and B Ronaldson 6-1, 6-1; Virgona and Lyons bt Dale and Coghlan 6-4, 6-2.

TROCADERO NATIONAL LEAGUE: Hatfield bt Harbour Club 2-1 (Hatfield names first): P Jarvis bt K Ludekens 2-1, M Howard lost to J Male 2-0; A Phillips bt D Deuchar (Aus) 2-1

CLUB MATCH: Moreton Morrell bt Bristol and Bath 4-1 (Moreton names first): J White bt J Rowe 6-5, 6-2; A Parmiter bt P Probyn 5-6, 6-2, 6-5; J Bisley bt N Ponsford 6-2, 6-2; A Parsons bt J Bretten 6-2, 6-5; L Perry lost to M Jones 6-1, 6-1.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERSHIP: Manly 22 Auckland 10; Western Reds 14 Canterbury 18

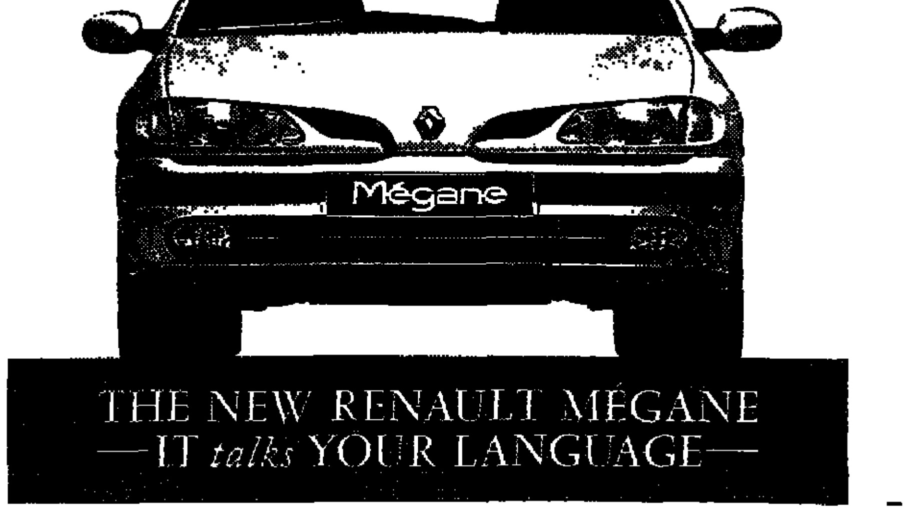
SHOOTING

KINGSTON: Jamaica centenary meeting: 300yds: 1, S Bissonette (Can), 35.7; 2, M Brister (GB), 35.6; 3, J Frazer (Guy) 35.5. 600yds: 1, M Kirkillo-Slacevicz (GB), 50.7; 2, C Williams (Jam), 49.8; 3, C Dahlstrom (Can), 49.7 900yds: 1, D Murray (Can), 74.11; 2, R Brown (Jam) 73.7; 3, T Newbold (GB), 73.7. Day aggregate: 1, Brown, 156 17; 2, Dahlstrom, 154.19; 3, Newbold, 154 15

TENNIS

BARCELONA: Spanish Open: Third round (Spain unless stated): T Muster (Austria) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 6-4, 7-5; J Courier (US) bt R Carretero 6-4, 6-3; M Larsson (Swe) bt S Bruguera 6-1, 5-7, 6-3; C Moya bt A Costa 6-2, 1-0; M Rios (Chile) bt I Truyol 1-6, 6-1, 6-4, T Martin (US) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6-0, 6-4; A Berasategui bt J Burillo 6-1, 6-4. Quarter-finals: Courier bt Martin 6-3, 7-6; Muster bt Roig 6-1, 6-1; Rios bt Larsson 2-6, 6-1, 6-2; Moya bt Berasategui 6-3, 6-3

TOKYO: Japan Open: Men: Quarter-finals: P Sampras (US) bt G Forget (Fr) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; R Reneberg (US) bt M Chang (US) 6-4, 7-6; M Woodforde (Aus) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 6-4, 7-5, H Dreekmann (Ger) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 7-6, 7-6 Women: Quarter-finals: A Frazier (US) bt K Po (US) 6-3, 6-0; N Kijimuta (Japan) bt C Morariu (US) 6-3, 6-3 Semi-final: K Date (Japan) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-1, 6-3.



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IN GUINEAS TRIAL

SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

Rest cures Atherton of travel sickness

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

MICHAEL ATHERTON has dispelled the spectre of a depressing winter and intends to resume the England captaincy with an optimism that was difficult to contemplate amid the disillusionment of an ill-fated World Cup campaign. The lines of fatigue have gone from his face and the uncertainty over his future in this most searching of sporting roles has gone from his voice.

It might not have been this way. Atherton admits to a sense of disenchantment with the planning and outcome of England's winter abroad and discloses having suggested to Raymond Illingworth that he should make way for a younger coach. He also says he questioned his own ability and appetite for the captaincy and that he consciously distanced himself from the reaction of public and media to give himself time to think.

"When we came back from Pakistan in March I put everything to the back of my mind," he said. "So much was up in the air, with doubts about the chairman, manager and selectors, and I wanted to see what came out in the wash. I also needed a period to recharge. It was important that I didn't rush anything."

The jigsaw of England's new management structure was completed this week and, although Atherton has not yet been reappointed, there is no doubt that he will soon be invited to continue — and no doubt, now, that he will accept. "I have had a restful couple of weeks to clear my head and I feel very positive," he said.

Interactive Team Cricket will be launched in *The Times* on Monday

Atherton's overwhelming feeling in March was one of physical exhaustion. "That was the main problem. It had been one of the longer winter tours in memory." Quite how long was emphasised to him only the other day as he drove from his Didsbury home towards Old Trafford. "I know the route like the back of my hand but I suddenly realised I was lost. I was on an entirely new road that had been built since I was last there."

Atherton had spent ten nights in his own home in six months. He has never been one to moan about the demands of his game but he feels the time has come to take stock. "We must give the England team the best environment to play winning cricket. We didn't do that last winter."

This will be the theme of his comments to the working party set up under David Acfield to review the management and preparation of the England team. Acfield has already consulted Atherton, who said: "I shall certainly have something to say about the amount we are asked to play, because it is a major problem, unique to English cricketers.

Atherton feels positive after a period of reflection

"We played poorly in the World Cup but the damage had been done before that, during the seven one-day internationals in South Africa. We worked hard in Pakistan but the confidence was fragile, *shell-like*. It frustrated me that we had been given no chance to prepare properly.

"The World Cup comes round only once in four years. Other teams built up for it with training camps and a proper amount of rest. We had a week's break after a tiring, five-Test tour. It was a depressing period for me. I don't like being beaten. But things do get exaggerated. It is seldom as bad as people try to make out."

By the time England took their early departure, however, Atherton did not trust himself to speak of the future. "Yes, I was questioning myself, but that was not unusual. I believe you must analyse your own performance or you will never get things right. You will just stagnate in the job. I knew there were areas we must improve as a team and I accept there are parts of my job I have not done as well as I would like."

Atherton includes here his sometimes spiky relationship with parts of the media. "Sometimes I suffer with the press from being too straightforward. If people catch me at a bad moment, perhaps I don't come across too well." Yet the grumpy label that has attached itself to Atherton continues to bemuse him. "I think it's unfair and I'm certainly not a *miserable* bloke."

It is this question of image, and pretence, with which Atherton is uncomfortable. The modern England captain is under such hawk-like scrutiny that he must be all things to all men. "I am not a politician and never will be," he said. "It's a part of the job that I don't like. I find it distasteful."

Illingworth has never been much of a politician, either: too blunt by far. In this, the chairman of selectors and captain are alike and their working relationship has improved. "We had a few early *hiccups* but I like to think we get along fine now," Atherton said. "We talk things through and it was in Cape Town in January that I openly suggested to him we should have a younger coach with the team. He obviously came round to the idea, which is why he stood down as team manager."

Botham offer 1
Fenner's fizzles out 43
South Africa win 43

Atherton's enthusiasm for the appointment of David Lloyd as coach is not confined to the fact that he is a friend and fellow Lancastrian. "I am convinced he is the right man. Fielding and fitness will be his big things. He will get us practising with more intensity. It will be varied and fun."

There is about Atherton something of the hero without honour. He is admired, his qualities acknowledged, yet the public do not acclaim and *defend him* as *they* did, say, Botham and Gower. It is his instinctive protection of his private self and his strong desire not to adopt unnatural airs that may one day make the captaincy intolerable to Atherton. But, please, not yet, for he is a rare asset in a needy game. "I will know when the time is right to give it up," he said firmly. "I will stop when I don't look forward to the big days any more. That is certainly not the case yet."

Olympic selection decision angers British runners

Marathon hopefuls stumble at roadblock

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

PROVIDED that they have breath left after their tirade yesterday against the British Athletic Federation (BAF), Britain's leading men in the Flora London Marathon tomorrow should play a prominent part in what is potentially the most absorbing race in the 16-year history of the event.

David Bedford, the elite race director, describes the London Marathon as "a cross between the Notting Hill Carnival and the Olympic Games". The men's race tomorrow would not look out of place in the Olympics, such is the strength of the line-up: proof that, as much as Bedford wants a British winner after two barren years, he puts the international credibility of the event above all else.

Dionicio Cerón, from Mexico, is seeking a hat-trick of victories, German Silva, his compatriot, has been New York City champion for the past two years and Vincent Rousseau, from Belgium, is the only athlete to have broken 2hr 08min twice. "It is going to be one hell of an achievement if a British runner does win." Eamonn Martin, the last British winner in London, said. A greater achievement would be persuading the federation's selectors to listen to the majority of athletes.

The complete list of finishers and times will be published in *The Times* next week

Five British men, who, in the opinion of Alan Storey, the general manager of the marathon, are capable of doing what no Briton has done for seven years — breaking 2:10 — feel aggrieved that two Olympic places have been filled and *there is only one to race for. All* agreed — Martin, Paul Evans, Mark Hudspith, Jon Solly and Gary Staines — that London should be an official Olympic trial. The counter argument is that the two selected, Peter Whitehead and Richard Nerurkar, fourth and seventh in the world championships last year, have proved themselves.

Again, the complaint came up that Nerurkar had been picked in January, while he was injured. This time, however, he got his retaliation in first, running a 61min 06sec half-marathon in Paris last week.

"Jonathan Edwards has not been pre-selected, yet they went ahead and selected two marathon runners," Hudspith said. "I find it strange they have picked two runners who have been injured," Martin said. "None of us know what we have got to do to get the last place ... a classic British fuddle," Solly said. All this was just pacemaking for Bedford, a former 10,000 metres world record-holder, who sat in their shadows then attacked without hesitation.

Bedford supported the athletes' view that London should be the Olympic trial and, directing specific criticism at Alan Warner, the chairman of selectors, said: "I believe that has not happened because there are some people in the [BAF] road-running commission who have commitments to other spring marathons." Bedford was referring to Warner's role as a consultant to the Boston Marathon, which was held on Monday.

He added: "The chairman of the road-running commission is yet again not here in London. He has gone on holiday. I think that is a disgrace." Bedford produced a copy of Warner's reply to the invitation for him to be present, regretting his absence and saying he was taking a holiday. Warner was unavailable for comment.

Unless he changes his mind, *he will miss a classic race.* As well as Cerón, Silva and Rousseau, Antonio Serrano, from Spain, and Domingos Castro, from Portugal, are considerable threats to a British victory. Castro, at 12-1, looks the best value-for-money bet. A former world championship silver medal-winner at 5,000 metres, he is a relative newcomer to the marathon but won in Paris last year in 2hr 10min 06sec.

ANDRE CAMARA

Towers of London: Britain's marathon hopefuls line up in the capital yesterday. From top: Evans, Staines, Solly, Martin, the last British winner, and Hudspith

Martin, whose build-up has been his best for a marathon since 1993, and Evans are Britain's main contenders and both expect to break 2:10, provided the weather is favourable — and the forecast yesterday offered plenty of encouragement.

The pacemaker will be advised to go through halfway around 63min 30sec, ideal to beat Steve Jones's course record of 2:08.16 while keeping the world best, 2:06.50, within range.

There is no pacemaker for the women's race. Liz McColgan will need to run close to the British women's record of 2hr 25min 56sec, held by Veronique Marot, if she is to beat Malgorzata Sobanska, the defending champion, from Poland and three good Kenyans.

Queens of the road, page 43

FA adds new colour to fashion argument

By Peter Ball

ONCE upon a time people worried about how footballers played. This week the main concern has been how they look. Alex Ferguson blamed United's grey change strip for their defeat at Southampton; yesterday Trevor Phillips, the Football Association's commercial director, described David Seaman as looking like "a tube of Refreshers" in England's new away goalkeeping strip.

Phillips described the design of the new kit as "a clanger", which had been dropped after taking expert advice. "The net result is that David Seaman has to walk out of the tunnel onto the Wembley pitch looking like a tube of Refreshers," Phillips told a London conference.

"You can only apologise, hold your hands up to it and put it right as soon as you can." That sounded like more bad news for Umbro, but it soon turned out that the colours of the day remained Refreshers, and in particular the red and yellow worn by Phillips — red as in face and yellow as in "egg on".

Faced with the gruff statement "enough is enough" from Alex Ferguson, Umbro responded quickly to protect their £60 million sponsorship deal. Faced with criticism from Phillips, Umbro also reacted quickly, and the FA commercial director quickly discovered he does not have the same clout as the manager of Manchester United. "Further to my remarks earlier today, I can confirm that the England away goalkeeper's kit will not be changing and will be worn for the next two years," Phillips said.

Seaman: fresh look

"The reaction to the kit has been tremendous," Alan Hadfield, Umbro's managing director, said, and any suspicion that he was using the word to mean large rather than good was dispelled when he added, "the kit has been a resounding success."

So, unlike Steve Bruce and Eric Cantona, who got their grey shirts abandoned, David Seaman, whose unhappiness at the shirt was evident a week ago, will have to put up with his multicoloured outfit.

But what will happen if David James comes through to replace him? Could "Armani's No 1" maintain his street cred — and lucrative modelling contract — if he had to appear looking like a "tube of Refreshers?" What would Armani say?

Umbro have not been the only manufacturers with difficulties this week. Adidas have appealed for help from Newcastle fans in tracking down a £200,000 consignment of the new Newcastle strip which was hijacked on its way to the North East. Three men have been arrested, but of the shirts there is no sign.

Rob Hughes, page 42

RFU dispute puts £1m cash injection at risk

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE internecine wrangling between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and its leading clubs threatens to deprive the sport of thousands of pounds. Yesterday, a leading London investment group told the warring factions than unless their dispute is resolved, a £1 million agreement might go elsewhere.

Leander Investments Ltd has been in negotiations with two clubs — one from the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship, the other from the third — for the past three months. But they will make no commitment until the dispute is solved: "Because of the ongoing impasse between the RFU and some of the major clubs ... it is at present uncertain where professionalism is taking the game," a statement said.

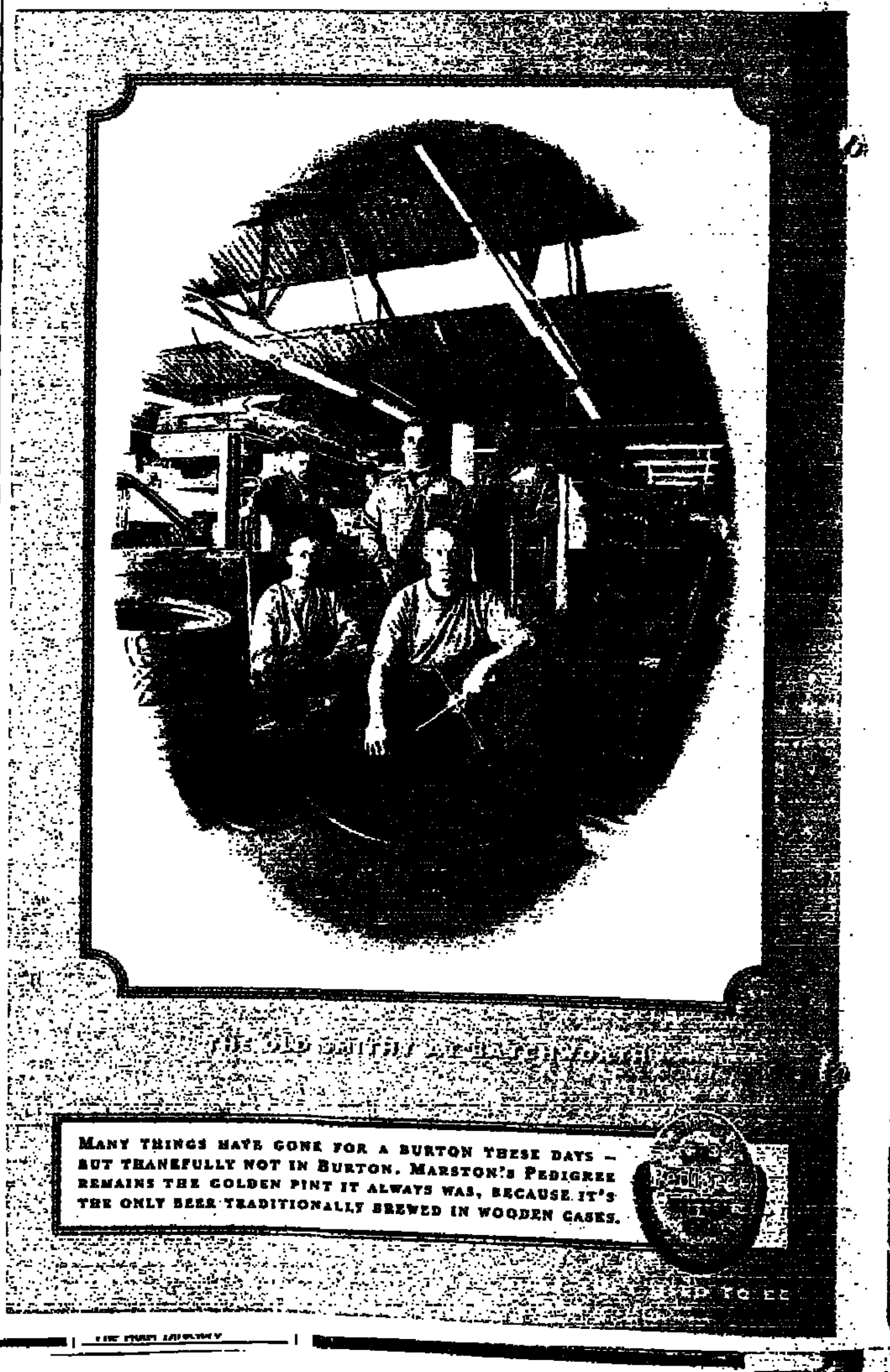
"The squabbling must cease otherwise companies like Leander will have no option but to invest elsewhere." Last year the group, which deals in property development, decided to diversify into leisure and sport. "Because we have a love of rugby, we spoke to clubs we knew," Andrew Braddon, the joint managing director, who formerly played for Old Alleynians, said.

"We wanted to give them commercial support and try to structure a more professional management committee. The investment was well into seven figures."

Leander were close to signing a lucrative deal before the rift became so great and now the group is concerned that splinter groups may fragment the sport. "Looking at this as businessmen, you can't have a series of groups with their own ideas, there isn't enough money to go round," Braddon said. "We as a group could put money into a club which ends up out of the top section."

It is a clear warning to English rugby to overcome its differences, at a time when the leading clubs are canvassing for exactly the interest Leander — and other companies — are expressing.

Court victory, page 3
Costly dispute, page 45



MANY THINGS HAVE GONE FOR A BURTON THESE DAYS – BUT THANKFULLY NOT IN BURTON. MARSTON'S PEDIGREE REMAINS THE GOLDEN PINT IT ALWAYS WAS, BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY BEER TRADITIONALLY BREWED IN WOODEN CASKS.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

Accuracy of hi-tech tools of war cannot be guaranteed

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

WEAPONS

THE Israeli bombardment of the United Nations refugee camp near Tyre has highlighted the huge risks of using unguided heavy firepower to hit small targets close to civilian communities.

The fear of "collateral damage" was one of the guiding principles which helped to focus the American-led coalition when it launched massive air raids on Iraqi targets during the 1991 Gulf War. Hezbollah units launching Katyusha rockets and mortar rounds into northern Israel do not face the same restrictions. Their shells are fired indiscriminately at Israeli communities and there is no concern about accuracy.

Israel has far more sophisticated equipment with which to target Hezbollah gunners, yet the artillery deployed on the Lebanese border, American 155mm M109A2s, can never achieve pinpoint accuracy without target acquisition guidance from a forward observer providing a grid reference. It is unlikely that the Israelis had anyone so far forward. They also use remotely-piloted air vehicles, or drones, to provide target surveillance, but the Israelis do not have models that give instantly transmitted photographs.

Shelling accuracy, therefore, relies on weapon locating radar which can help to pinpoint the launch spot of Hezbollah rockets. Under this system, however, a 155mm shell can still land within a range of about 300 yards of the target. Hezbollah admitted that it had a gunner unit close to the UN camp.

Artillery shells land in an area called "mean point impact", which allows for a degree of inaccuracy, about 300 yards deep and 50-70 yards wide. However, even though this is relatively accurate for a high explosive shell fired from up to 11 miles away, weather and atmospheric conditions can produce wide variations.

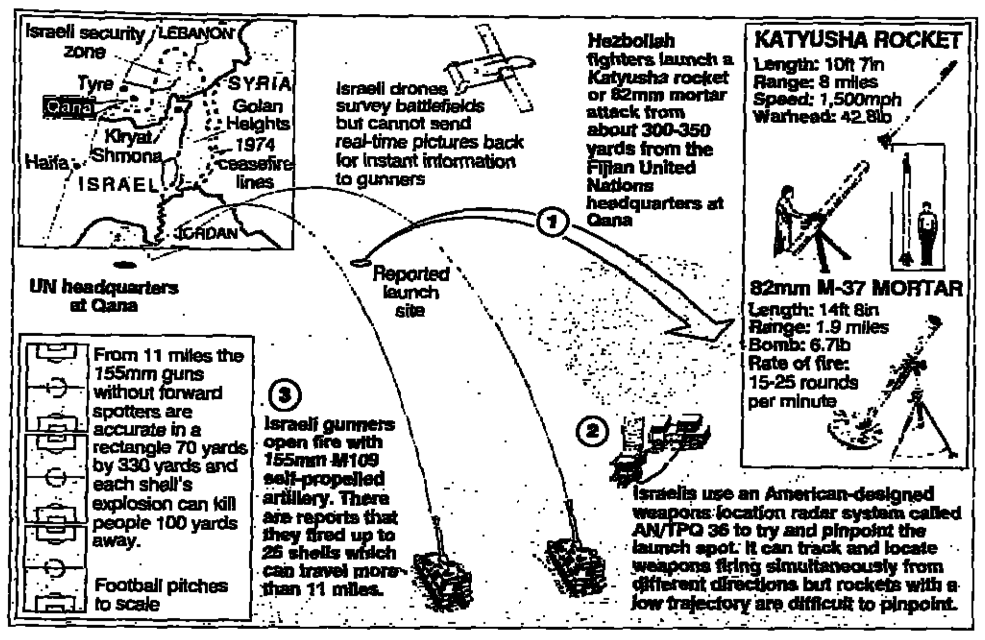
Hezbollah is firing both 82mm mortars and Katyusha rockets against Israel. However, instead of the more visible multi-barrelled Katyusha system which have to be transported by lorry — the type used by the Palestine Liberation Organisation against northern Israel during the 1970s and early 1980s, and also by the Serbs against Zagreb, the Croatian capital — Hezbollah is deploying portable, single-launcher Katyusha rockets fired from tripods.

Once fired, the launcher can be packed up quickly and removed from the area. This version of the Katyusha, which is based on the former Soviet 122mm BM21 rocket, can also be fired with a timing device. This would explain why the Israeli military, despite special artillery-locating equipment, have had such difficulty in destroying the Hezbollah launchers. The Israelis are equipped with the Hughes-designed American AN/TPQ 36 Firefinder radar system, which electronically scans the horizon over a 90 degree sector several times a second, intercepting and automatically tracking incoming rockets or shells. It then uses the trajectory to calculate the launch site.

However, Christopher Foss, editor of *Jane's Armour and Artillery*, said the Katyusha system, which is the generic name for all Russian unguided rockets, was so fast from launch to target that there was little time for the Israelis to guarantee tracking accuracy, even with AN/TPQ 36 radar.

Mortar rounds reach a high altitude before descending to the target, giving at least 20 to 30 seconds for the Israelis to locate the firing point. However, the trajectory of the Katyusha, which has a range of more than eight miles, has only a 50 degree elevation from the ground and travels at a maximum of more than 750 yards a second.

The M109A2 self-propelled howitzer used by the Israelis has a normal rate of fire of one round per minute but three rounds per minute can be fired for a limited period. The Israelis also have a M107 howitzer which has a special shell with a longer range.


Israeli security zone
LEBANON
Tyre
Qana
SYRIA
Golan Heights
1974 ceasefire lines
Kiryat Shmona
Haifa
ISRAEL
JORDAN
UN headquarters at Qana
From 11 miles the 155mm guns without forward spotters are accurate in a rectangle 70 yards by 330 yards and each shell's explosion can kill people 100 yards away.
Football pitches to scale
Israeli drones survey battlefields but cannot send real-time pictures back for instant information to gunners
Hezbollah fighters launch a Katyusha rocket or 82mm mortar attack from about 300-350 yards from the Fijian United Nations headquarters at Qana
①
Reported launch site
②
Israelis use an American-designed weapons location radar system called AN/TPQ 36 to try and pinpoint the launch spot. It can track and locate weapons firing simultaneously from different directions but rockets with a low trajectory are difficult to pinpoint.
③
Israeli gunners open fire with 155mm M109 self-propelled artillery. There are reports that they fired up to 25 shells which can travel more than 11 miles.
KATYUSHA ROCKET
Length: 10ft 7in
Range: 8 miles
Speed: 1,500mph
Warhead: 42.8lb
82mm M-37 MORTAR
Length: 14ft 8in
Range: 1.9 miles
Bomb: 6.7lb
Rate of fire: 15-25 rounds per minute

Israeli gunners pray at their position on the northern border with Lebanon yesterday

Cairo attack claims puzzle officials

From Mark Huband
in Cairo

EGYPT

GREEK officials were yesterday analysing conflicting faxed statements apparently sent by Islamic fundamentalists after the killing of 17 Greek tourists and one Egyptian outside a Cairo hotel on Thursday.

The city has effectively been cordoned off from the rest of the country as security forces search for the gunmen. Police are believed to have made 12 arrests.

The faxes were from the radical Gamaa al-Islamiya group, according to the private Athens-based television company which received them.

The Egyptian Government is keen to reassure foreigners that the attack does not mark a resurgence of Islamist violence directed at tourists. If the killings are proven to be linked with Israel's attacks in south Lebanon, this would support the Government's position.

A first fax said the Islamicmilitants had carried out the slaughter of mostly women pensioners at the Europa Hotel. But a second denied responsibility and said the Gamaa al-Islamiya was opposed to such violence.

A spokeswoman for the Greek Embassy in Cairo said the authenticity of the statements was still being examined. The faxes are the only clue so far received in response to the attack, the worst on foreign tourists since they first became targets in 1992. The last attack was five months ago, and Thursday's carnage was the first in Cairo for a year.

☐ **Athens:** Grieving relatives gathered at the capital's main morgue to collect the bodies of the 17 Greek pilgrims killed in the Cairo attack. The Transport Ministry said extra charter flights were planned to bring back hundreds of Greek tourists wanting to cut short their visits to Egypt. Travel agencies estimate there are 5,000 Greek visitors in Egypt. *(AP)*

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Major extends a helping hand for Yeltsin campaign

FROM JILL SHERMAN IN MOSCOW

John Major and President Yeltsin in the Kremlin after a reception for G7 leaders who are meeting to discuss nuclear safety

JOHN MAJOR last night gave tacit backing to President Yeltsin's re-election campaign after a blunt exchange of views with Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist front-runner.

The Prime Minister had a 30-minute meeting with Mr Zyuganov, the candidate of a broad Left coalition, who leads in polls for what is emerging as a two-horse race in June. Mr Major then went on to meet President Yeltsin who was hosting the G7 summit on nuclear safety which opened with a state dinner here last night.

At a press briefing after the meetings, Mr Major indicated that Mr Zyuganov did not share Mr Yeltsin's reforming zeal. "He explained what he was about and what he sees as priorities in this country. But self-evidently he doesn't believe that those priorities should concern people elsewhere," Mr Major said. "I underlined to him the importance we attach to the reform programme."

Mr Zyuganov has made it clear that he intends to reverse many of the Russian reforms and would return several enterprises to the state sector.

Mr Major went as far as he could diplomatically to endorse Mr Yeltsin's candidacy. "It is not for anyone to determine who should be the President of Russia. That is a matter for the Russian people and it would be impertinent for me to state a preference," he said.

"But we do have a very strong view that the reform programme is very important and we wish to see the reform programme proceed and I think that is a view very widely held right across the world."

In an interview with the local newspaper *Argumenty i Fakty*, Mr Major said: "We have very good working relations with Mr Yeltsin. We have known him for a very long time and we very much admire what he's seeking to do.

"Of course personal relations impact when one knows people. We are prepared to assist, help and work with whomsoever is going to advance the reform process and that is a matter of greatest importance."

Mr Major underlined this message by announcing a £50 million allocation from Britain's Know How fund set up to help Eastern countries with economic reform. His tacit endorsement will delight Mr Yeltsin, who is hoping that the Moscow summit will give a big boost to his election campaign.

At their bilateral meeting, Mr Major also reassured Mr Yeltsin that Nato enlargement would proceed cautiously and slowly. The Russian people feel threatened by the proposed expansion of Nato and have challenged Mr Yeltsin over the issue.

Yesterday Mr Major said that Nato wanted good and close relations with Russia. "I don't think there is any threatening aspect at all about Nato expansion, nor is there any great hurry about it. I think people are raising concerns that are unreal." Mr Major also told Mr Yeltsin of concern in the West about reports that the violation human rights in Chechenia was increasing. British officials said the Prime Minister had impressed upon Mr Yeltsin that the violence had to end.

Nuclear safety pact agreed

World leaders are scheduled today to discuss in detail plans to shut dangerous nuclear reactors and make others safer. In particular, the G7 nations have agreed with Ukraine to finance the decommissioning of the two reactors still operating at Chernobyl. Government heads are due to sign an agreement to boost intelligence co-operation and tighten security around fissile materials.

Grachev ready to quit over ambush

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PAVEL GRACHEV, the Russian Defence Minister, offered to resign yesterday after a national outcry erupted over the death of scores of Russian servicemen in an ambush by Chechen separatists.

In a surprise announcement before the Duma, the lower house of parliament, General Grachev, the hawkish mastermind of the disastrous Chechenia campaign, admitted that 53 Russian troops were killed and 52 wounded when their poorly defended convoy came under attack on Tuesday.

"I am ready to resign if deputies consider that I am to blame," the general said. He added that the commander of the infantry regiment, whose men sustained the casualties, had been relieved of his duties.

Although the Duma does not have the power to dismiss the Defence Minister, President Yeltsin does. "The military leadership is to blame and will be held responsible for what has happened," declared the Russian leader between meetings with visiting heads of government of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, said he told Mr Yeltsin that Russia and the world was waiting for the fighting to end. "He reaffirmed that he will do what he can to stop the conflict," Herr Kohl said. "Yeltsin knows his re-election depends on whether or not the fighting stops."

General Grachev did little to endear himself to Mr Yeltsin when he criticised the President's peace initiative launched three weeks ago which aims at securing a ceasefire and pulling out Russian troops by the end of the year.

"I am not against the peace plan but so far it allows the fighters to concentrate their forces. We should not forget that they are bandits and they should be destroyed," General Grachev told the deputies. "I regret that I have not been able to finish off the rebels."

Grachev: criticised Yeltsin's peace plan

Warning of world water shortage

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE world is running out of fresh water, with more than a fifth of the population facing drought by the middle of the next century, a United Nations-backed report says.

Booming populations, the growth of cities and industries in the developing world, pollution and the demand for food and irrigation schemes mean a minimum of more than 40 countries will have insufficient water supplies, affecting as many as 2.43 billion people.

But the *World Resources* report, published yesterday, gives a warning that the number under threat could be even higher with regional shortages and droughts also likely in countries with more bountiful water resources.

Funded by the UN's development and environment programmes, the World Bank and the World Resources Institute, it claims the key to heading off the crisis is to reduce pollution of underground resources and to use water in agriculture more efficiently.

World Resources: A Guide to the Global Environment 1996-97, Oxford University Press.

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Grachev ready to quit over ambush

'Englishwoman Tana' takes on the Right in fight for Senate seat

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

ITALIAN ELECTIONS

IN A busy market near the Vatican walls Tana de Zulueta canvassed for the Italian Senate, chatting to potential voters with the slight awkwardness of a newcomer to politics.

"I'm not a native Italian, you know," she said to a stallholder standing behind a huge pile of artichokes. "I'm half English and half Spanish."

"Don't worry," said the man, grinning. "I could tell from your accent, but good luck to you. Who knows, you might be able to sort us out where many real Italians have failed."

The sight of an "Anglo Saxon viper", as one right-wing newspaper recently called Signora de Zulueta, campaigning for the Centre Left in an Italian election has raised a few eyebrows. In fact, she has Italian nationality through her husband, a senior figure in the Italian equivalent of the CBI. She also has Spanish nationality; her father is from a noted anti-Franco political family, but her mother is English, and Signora de Zulueta went to Cambridge.

Moreover, for 20 years she was a correspondent in Italy for British publications, including *The Economist* and *The Sunday Times*, before taking the plunge into politics. She is standing for the Senate in tomorrow's election in the surprisingly high profile seat of Rome Central. In the eyes of the Italian press, she is *Tana l'inglese* (Tana the Englishwoman). What made her do it? "I feel very strongly about the issues facing this country. I was very supportive two years ago when the centre-left bloc was formed under the name 'The Olive Tree'. I feel Italy should be presented with two clear alternatives, Centre Left and Centre Right, to avoid constant weak coalitions and instability."

The last elections, in 1994, produced a short-lived centre-right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon. This time The Olive Tree, led by Romano Prodi, an economics professor, hopes to persuade voters that a combination of former Communists, centrists and left-wing Catholics can be trusted with power. What will they do if they win?

"Reduce Berlusconi's power over the media," Signora de Zulueta says without hesitation. "One of the reasons I agreed when Prodi asked me to stand was that I think it's an absolute priority that Italy straightens out the problem of media control. The fact that Berlusconi owns so much of Italian TV means that minimum democratic guarantees no longer exist. The situation can only get worse if he becomes Prime Minister again."

The tussle between Signor Berlusconi and anti-corruption judges over alleged malpractice in his business empire also worries her. "If he wins, there will be a head-on clash between the judiciary and the Right, which will try to reduce the judges' independence. I fear Italy will pay a heavy price."

Signora de Zulueta is 44, softly spoken, and dresses with understated elegance. As a journalist at work long before the "Clean Hands" anti-corruption judges overturned the old order in 1992, she helped to expose the scandals surrounding corrupt Christian Democratic politicians, the mysterious activities of the P2 Masonic lodge and of Banco Ambrosiano, the "Vatican bank".

She read anthropology and archaeology at Cambridge, after a series of overseas schools (her father worked for the World Health Organisation) and a spell at an English boarding school.

She went to Italy, where her maternal grandparents had retired, became involved in journalism, and met her future husband. In effect, she married Italy. "When I was asked to stand I was very honoured. My previous political activity was confined to writing some position papers for Professor Prodi. I told the selection committee I was Italian by choice, which was a bigger commitment than being Italian by birth. They seemed to like that".

Her opponent is the incumbent senator, Giulio Maceratini, 58, a senior member of the "post-Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale, which evolved from Mussolini's Blackshirts but now claims to be respectably "right of centre". Signora de Zulueta dismissed his claims to be moderate. "He is to the right of his party," she said, "and it's a marginal seat. He got in with only 42 per cent last time."

CHRISTOPHER WARDE-JONES

Tana de Zulueta drums up support in a Rome market before tomorrow's elections

THE KEY PLAYERS

SILVIO BERLUSCONI
Aged 59. Leader of Forza Italia. Self-made property and media millionaire. Prime Minister for eight months in 1994, brought verve and entrepreneurial spirit to government but was brought down by corruption charges. Faces trial for alleged bribery of tax officials. Insists he is still the Centre Right's candidate for Prime Minister. Glamorous wife.

GIANFRANCO FINI
Aged 44. From Bologna. Leader of the "post-Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale. Became leader of the neo-Fascist Movimento Sociale Italiano (MSI), heir to Mussolini's Blackshirts, in 1987 at the age of 35. Dissolved the MSI to create more moderate Alleanza Nazionale in 1995. Has given legitimacy to the Right. Polished performer, shrewd and calculating.

LAMBERTO DINI
Aged 65. Current Prime Minister. From Florence, and said to have Machiavellian cunning. Respected economist. Agreed to form a non-party "technocratic" administration when Berlusconi fell. Surprised Italy by forming his own centrist party, Italian Renewal, in February. Flamboyant wife, Donatella, is a wealthy businesswoman.

UMBERTO BOSSI
Aged 54. From Varese, leader of the separatist Northern League and a senator since 1987. He is unkempt, unpredictable, often foul-mouthed and demagogic, but also a shrewd tactician who transformed a 1980s local protest movement into a national force. Bossi aims to create a "nation of the North" called Padania.

ROMANO PRODI
Aged 56. Economics professor. From Bologna. Unassuming centre-left candidate for Prime Minister. Product of Milan Catholic University, visiting professor at Harvard in 1974. Has never held an elected post. He is a Catholic, who cycles to his work, and who married his childhood sweetheart.

MASSIMO D'ALEMO
Aged 47. Leader of the Democratic Party of the Left, or PDS. From Rome. Helped to transform the old Italian Communist Party. A lifelong Communist Party official, D'Alemo made his bid for the leadership after party's defeat in 1994. He holds moderate views but some of his party still profess to be Marxist.

THE PARTIES

L'ULIVO
(The Olive Tree) Includes the PDS (Democratic Party of the Left, i.e. ex-Communists), the Greens, and the Popular Army

RINNOVAMENTO ITALIANO
Dini's new party

POLO
Includes Forza Italia, Alleanza Nazionale (Fascists) and Christian Democrats

LEGA NORD
(Northern League)

RIFONDAZIONE COMUNISTAD
Communist Party

Money markets bank on late spurt by Olive Tree coalition

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY'S election tomorrow appeared too close to call, with many voters saying they intended to abstain. Most commentators yesterday predicted a centre-right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi, with Gianfranco Fini's "post-Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale as the dominant force.

But the Centre Left, which includes the former Communists, made what *La Stampa* called a "last-minute spurt", and there were signs that the money markets were banking on a centre-left coalition led by Romano Prodi, a respected professor of economics. "The Centre Left has its best chance since the Second World War," said Renato Mannheimer, professor of politics at Genoa University.

The centre-left bloc known as L'Ulivo, or The Olive Tree, challenged the Right by holding its final election rally in the Piazza del Popolo, traditionally the site of right-wing demonstrations. One hundred and fifty thousand people attended, making a sea of green and white flags, the colours of the centrist parties, with occasional flashes of red. "Two years ago it was nearly all red flags," said one Olive Tree supporter. "Now the Centre Left is more centre than left."

. The platform reflected this shift, with Professor Prodi standing alongside Lamberto Dini, the caretaker Prime Minister since the last Berlusconi Government collapsed at the end of 1994. Signor Dini, who created Rinnovamento Italiano, or Italian Renewal, as a new centre party for this election, initially said that he was aligned with neither Left nor Right. But his appearance yesterday was a sign that he had plumped for an alliance with the Party of the Democratic Left.

Conservatives at a rival rally in Piazza Navona said the moderation of the Centre Left was an illusion. But a survey by *L'Espresso* magazine of stockbrokers and investors showed that 55 per cent favour a centre-left government. Investment analysts said although Signor Berlusconi was a dynamic businessman, corruption charges had clouded his career, while Signor Fini's "corporatist" neo-Fascist ideology would undermine the lira. By contrast, Professor Prodi was a "safe pair of hands", while Signor Dini had steered Italy through monetary union.

Pasta's masters source the votes

☐ There are no exit polls this year, because they proved so inaccurate last time, but according to Milan food experts you can tell a voter's inclinations by what he eats. Table-watchers at an election feast in a top Milan restaurant said rightwingers prefer lasagne, liver and *baccala* (dried cod) while leftwingers go for "ethnic dishes" and tend to avoid heavy sauces.

Lamberto Dini, the centrist Prime Minister whose looks have earned him the nickname *Il Rospo* (The Toad), turns out to be very fond of *ranocchie* (fried frogs). Silvio Berlusconi is on a diet of strawberries and kiwi fruit, and cuts out lunch altogether, to ensure that he looks slim and elegant on television.

☐ The Countess Donatella Pecci-Blunt, a striking blonde, has come out in support of Lamberto Dini and his Rinnovamento Italiano party. This week she sent out last-minute invitations to an impromptu high society do at her fifteenth-century palazzo at the foot of the Piazza del Campidoglio, with a pianist playing left-wing songs and a giant cake with Signor Dini's name on it.

CAMPAIGN NOTEBOOK

☐ Down in Sorrento the patrician Mario d'Urso, the energetic former president of Lehman Brothers and an intimate of Rockefeller and Agnelli, is running for the Centre Left, campaigning stylishly up and down the Amalfi coast in a speedboat with a portable telephone from which he urges the great and and the good in their villas to vote Left.

☐ Whoever is elected tomorrow will have an uphill job getting voters to remember who they are. A survey suggests 88 per cent of voters could not name a single candidate in their constituencies.

RICHARD OWEN

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Scourge of Britain's beef herd takes stock

BRUSSELS FILE by CHARLES BREMNER

IN BRITAIN'S troubled relations with its European partners, popular wrath has focused on a long procession of continental villains. Sometimes the dastardly Eurocrat is a natural for tabloid caricature, as was the case with Jacques Delors, the French former President of the Commission and irascible philosopher-king of Maastricht fame.

It is harder to make a bogeyman out of Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner and latest *haut fonctionnaire* to attract British ire. "That awful man in a beard," seems to be the worst that British papers could hurl at the beef-eating Austrian whose alimentary intentions sparked indignation this week.

The burly, amiable-mannered Herr Fischler, 49, is a newcomer, having arrived last year as Austria's first Commissioner after five years as its Agriculture Minister. A surprise choice for one of the hottest seats in the Commission, he has earned high marks in the Brussels power game. He had also proved himself "on the side of the angels", as a British official put it, advocating reform of the common agriculture policy (CAP).

Before landing in the biggest Euro-British spat for years, Herr Fischler had managed to win the confidence of the European consumer lobbies and farmers. He has shepherded in new rules on animal transport, veal crates and food quality. His resistance to allowing imports of hormone-raised beef has annoyed Britain, but been welcomed across the Continent. At the same time, he has calmed the anguish of the French over letting rivals from the old Communist bloc share the bounty of the CAP when they join the Union.

The son of a Tyrolean farmer, Herr Fischler earned a doctorate in agriculture before entering politics in 1990 as a Christian Democrat MP. One of his shrewd moves as a man with little foreign experience was to surround himself with one of the most international teams in the Commission.

A private man, his only visible concession to frivolity is a fondness for garish ties featuring farm animals. He spends weekdays alone in a modest Brussels flat. He eschews the usual limousines and walks to the Commission to start work at 7am, putting in longer days than most. At weekends he returns to his small farm in the Tyrolean village of Absam to be with his wife, Heidi, and four children.

It was his decision to go to the Tyrol on the first weekend of the beef crisis that led to the public relations stumble. Landing back in Brussels after the emergency veterinary meeting was nearly over, he made a premature announcement of the beef ban, promising to put a "ring fence" around Britain, a remark from which he later retreated. His anger over the failure of Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, to warn him of the Commons announcement on Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease got the better of his usual calm.

When a British reporter turned up on his doorstep in Absam last Sunday, his instinct for plain-speaking led him to the remark that he would eat British beef because there was nothing medically wrong with it.

Herr Fischler is appalled at being painted as the agent of an anti-British campaign. London, he believes, created the crisis by announcing a possible link between mad cows and CJD, and he is only trying to deal with a threat to the whole European industry. "He feels badly about Hogg not warning him," a colleague said. "If there had been a bit of warning, maybe the whole thing could have been managed better."

While the affair has cast Herr Fischler as the scourge of John Bull's beef, his management of the crisis is well rated at the Commission. In Vienna he is being cited as a potential candidate for the chancellorship or the presidency. He is doing little to discourage such talk, but many a trap still lies ahead as he performs one of Europe's most thankless tasks.

Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, inspects a cow in his home village of Absam

Connoisseur choc horror

PATRIOTIC Belgians are fuming over a largely unsung British victory this week. The Commission's decision to give EU-wide approval to British-style chocolate, which usually contains vegetable fat, was too much to swallow for the country that prides itself as the world headquarters of fine chocolate. The official blessing for the "ersatz" stuff, cheaper to make and banned from production in half the EU states, amounts to sacrilege, said Le Soir, *the main Brussels paper. According to Jacques Mercier, a full-time "chocolate writer", Belgians must resist any temptation to make or eat the adulterated stuff. The decision, he said, showed "the reign of money over everything else, over the quality of life and good taste".*

Working for family values

FANCY a job in the well-paid ranks of the Eurocracy? Normally there is an army of supplicants in fierce competitive exams, but not for the Committee of the Regions, the youngest of EU institutions.

Here, the mere tug of a string by a well-placed contact can do the trick. Since the Maastricht treaty brought it into existence two years ago to bring Europe closer to its citizens, this council of 222 local politicians has earned a reputation for alleged nepotism.

The committee, whose ranks embrace German regional bosses and humble British councillors, was supposed to have mended its ways after an inquiry and the anointment last month of Pasqual Maragall, the Socialist Mayor of Barcelona, as its president.

However, old habits persist, according to the staff unions, which resorted this week to a 100-person sit-in. The spark was the induction of 20 new civil servants to £35,000-a-year jobs on the basis of brief interviews.

"This type of political corruption is unprecedented," said Frank Patterson, vice-president of the Union Syndicale, the Eurocrats' main staff union. "They just walked in and had a chat and walked out as European officials."

Half of the committee's 80 permanent civil servants, including a bevy of Britons, are relatives or friends of insiders, says the union. It has issued Señor Maragall with a warning of further action.

Nastase courts votes in mayoral contest

From Reuter in Bucharest

ILIE NASTASE, the Romanian former tennis star, launched his campaign to be Mayor of Bucharest yesterday with the backing of Nadia Comaneci, the former communist country's other sporting idol.

"I wish you every success from a sportswoman to a sportsman," Miss Comaneci told Mr Nastase after a kiss for the cameras.

"He built a name, he rebuilds a city," proclaimed his campaign slogan on banners over one of Bucharest's most elegant mansions.

On a wall outside, carefully written graffiti *Ilie Primar* (Ilie for Mayor) suggested his campaign managers were also going for the common touch. Outside the hall, politicians and journalists scrambled for pens and lighters bearing his name.

In a country short on glamour and contemporary heroes, the combination of Mr Nastase, 49, the former French Open champion, and Miss Comaneci, makes a powerful image for the ruling Party of Social Democracy, which faces municipal and national elections this year.

President Iliescu is hosting a reception for Miss Comaneci's gala wedding to a fellow Olympic gymnast, American Bart Conner, next week. The leader of the ruling party will be the bride's godfather.

Régine: accused of intimidation on plane

French fume over club queen arrest

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

RÉGINE, the veteran Paris nightclub owner, singer and socialite who taught the Duke of Windsor the Twist, faced charges of assault and intimidation in a Boston court yesterday after she and her son got into an argument with airline staff over smoking.

Régine, 67, the self-styled "Queen of the Night" who once ran a string of nightclubs from Paris to London to Rio de Janeiro, was on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami when her son Lionel Rotcage, a former editor of the French edition of *Rolling Stone* magazine, lit up.

A steward asked Mr Rotcage, 47, to put out the cigarette or smoke at the back of the plane, but he declined, observing: "I don't give a damn about the law." When the steward insisted, Mr Rotcage asked: "What are you going to do? Shoot me?" Threatened with legal action, he allegedly responded: "You do that and I'll shoot you down."

During the ensuing altercation, the chief steward was allegedly jostled and the captain announced an emergency landing to offload the fuming Mr Rotcage.

At this point the redoubtable Régine — her married name is Choukroun, but she prefers to be known by her regal first name — followed the captain back to the cockpit, "making obscene declarations", an FBI report said. "You can't tell me what to do," she declared in the shrill tones she once used to quieten unruly night-clubbers. "The last time someone told me what to do was when the Nazis invaded Paris."

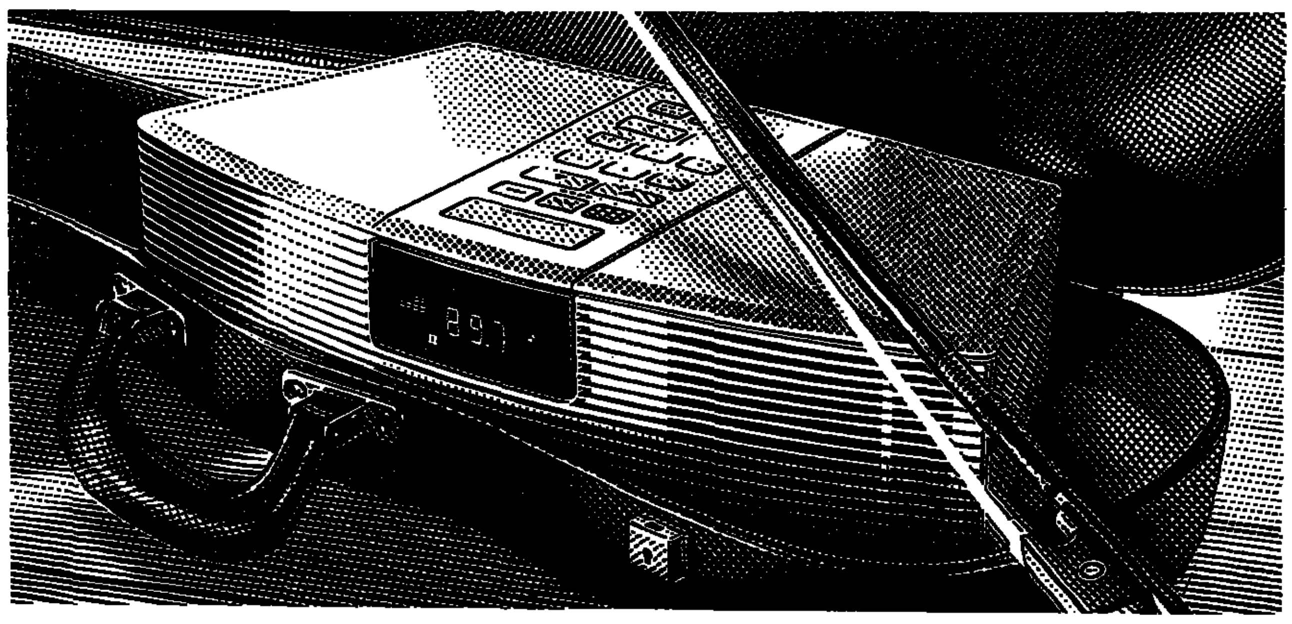
On landing in Boston both mother and son were arrested by the FBI and charged with assault, intimidation and interfering with the flight crew.

The woman still known in France as the "Queen of hearts, clubs and diamonds" now has trouble in spades since she and her son each face up to 20 years in prison and fines of $250,000 if convicted.

The incident has provoked outrage in France, where the colourful Régine, and smoking in forbidden places, are both enduringly popular. The newspaper *France-Soir* pointed out that the US "is a country where tobacco is on the way to being considered a drug while arms are freely on sale". Even the usually sober *Le Monde* noted in a headline, "Régine and her son threatened with prison for the sake of a cigarette".

The Belgian-born Régine opened her first club in 1957 and built up a chain of 19 worldwide. Once she received a telephone call at 11pm from the secretary of the Duke of Windsor asking her to go to his Paris house and teach dinner-party guests how to do the Twist, the popular 1960s dance. In a canny marketing move, she insisted the royal party come to her club if they wanted a tutorial and, according to Régine, they did.

Régine and her son were released on Thursday after surrendering their passports.



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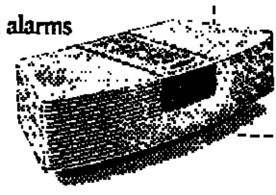

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■ OPINION

Is the arts establishment awarding too many goodies to boost the prestige of the capital?

■ MUSICALS

All you need is love . . . and a magic piano: Slade's *Salad Days* returns to the West End

THE TIMES ARTS

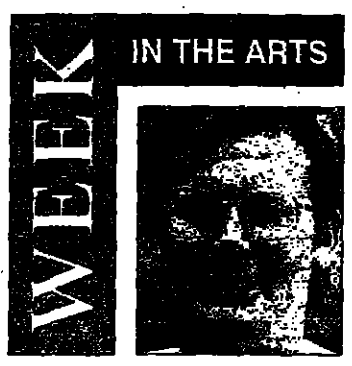
■ CHOICE

From top Canadian ballet to the best pop gigs: the pick of the shows are in Weekend, pages 14 and 15

■ ON MONDAY

Tony Harrison's new Victor Hugo adaptation, *The Prince's Play*: read Benedict Nightingale's view

London calling, but Britain paying



RICHARD MORRISON

Was it only last year that suave chaps from the Arts Council were assuring us that lottery money would not be "carved up" by the London-based arts establishment? Indeed it was — and their guarantees sounded so genuine, so heartfelt. All would benefit! From cornet players in Lancashire to busty mezzos at Covent Garden, the lottery largesse would flow evenly! Milk and honey all round!

Well, it has flowed all right. But most of the lottery cash has flowed in one direction. To say that the lion's share has been swiped by London would be to slander the communal generosity of big cats. The fact is that London's arty-smarties have demonstrated a greed for other people's money, and a genius for finagling it, that would leave many a smash-and-grab raider gaping in admiration.

I try not to allow too many facts and figures to intrude upon my articles. I find them unhelpful to my arguments. But in this case I make an exception. Because lottery awards are announced in dribs and drabs, the cumulative scope of London's dominance is hard to grasp. So let's have a quick glance at the old scoreboard so far.

Covent Garden has been given £78 million, Sadler's Wells £30m, the Royal Court £16m, the National Theatre £32m and the Globe £12m. The British Museum has enjoyed two massive handouts: £30m and £8m. The National Maritime Museum has picked up a useful £12m, and a tolerable £50m has gone to the Tate's *Bankside* project. Kew Gardens gets £21m for a "seed bank" (they must shop at the same garden centre as we do); and Greenwich gets £200m for Millennium jollies.

Readers with a head for numbers will have totted up this little list and found a total not far short of half a billion *pounds*. That's just for ten major projects. I hesitate to mention the £344,540 of lottery dosh awarded so that the Institute of Contemporary Arts can "examine its future role". Future role? You mean it had one in the past?

Or the £114,538 that will let the Laban Dance Centre in Lewisham commission a "study to determine whether the Centre should redevelop its facilities". Gosh, how many consultants does it take to walk round a dance school?

And there's more lottery lolly coming London's way. Much, much more. The South Bank Centre has high hopes for its £127m bid — yes, that is the bid which was £45m a year ago. Inflation in the arts is an awesome sight, is it not? English National Opera is confident of extracting a few million to do up the Coliseum. Wembley Stadium is expecting a vast handout. And so on.

It all adds up to a monstrous bias in favour of London. A report last week pointed out that the lottery money awarded to London so far has been *700 times greater*, per head of population, than that awarded to Bedfordshire. Not surprising, really, since Bedfordshire has been given precisely 3p per person. I don't favour moving the Royal Opera House to Luton, although that would be a fascinating sociological experiment. But I can see why people in the regions might form the impression that the lottery has been stitched up by a gang of metropolitan cronies.

"Ah yes," the London apologists counter, "but London has to compete against Paris, Berlin, Vienna and other formidably endowed European capitals." True enough. But "second cities" must also compete internationally: Birmingham must keep up with Barcelona, Munich, Milan. So must third, fourth and fifth cities.

Ten years ago, the Arts Council seemed to acknowledge this, devolving subsidy and power to the regions, and fostering a great many centres of artistic excellence outside London. Now, without public discussion or announcement, the policy has been reversed, and reversed in astonishingly blatant fashion. London gets two, or possibly three, lavishly refurbished lyric theatres; the excellent Welsh National Opera is refused even one proper home.

That's not good for the arts in Britain, and not good for London either. The impression in the capital is not one of carefully planned cultural growth, but of a wildly uncontrolled free-for-all in which overlapping schemes are allowed to chase after the same sources of private and corporate backing — and, in the long run, after the same limited audiences and subsidy. What you are seeing is not a drive to enrich London's artistic life, but a ruthless dash for cash that is then used to fortify the most powerful cultural fiefdoms.

Meanwhile, where are the lottery-funded schemes — promised by the Prime Minister last year — that are supposed to initiate an "arts renaissance" in schools? Mysteriously, they are being formulated rather more slowly than London's megabuck projects. Nurturing the audiences and performers of tomorrow? Widening the desperately narrow social base that supports the arts? Not one of our priorities, old boy.

Ah well, let's finish on a defiantly regional note. What I want to know is: how are the people of *Bedfordshire going to blow their* 3p-per-head lottery handout this year? A magnum of inexpensive bubbly, perhaps, and a million straws? Or new shirts for Luton Town Football Club, with the promise of matching shorts to follow next season? Perhaps our readers in that part of the world would let Mrs Bottomley know. *She does read her foreign mail*, you know.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

TOM HOLLANDER

Profession: Actor

Age: 28

Appearance: Cherub gone to seed.

Forte: The comedy and charisma of villainy.

Nasty pieces of work: He was Macheath in Brecht's *Threepenny Opera*, casually organising crime in 21st-century Soho. Then Baby, the dangerously mixed-up mafia kid in *Mojo*.

And now? Tartuffe, Molière's 17th-century spiritual conman, at the Almeida.

On *Tartuffe*: "It's a brilliantly constructed play," Hollander says, "I like playing frightening megalomaniacs. I'm so unfrightening in real life."

Flexible: Hollander transformed into a sweet, cheeky yet vulnerable Celia in Cheek By Jowl's all-male *As You Like It*. In Peter Gill's *Way of the World*, he stole the show with a bit part as the flamboyant twit, Witwoud.

Family: The Hollanders are not historically theatrical but have artistic genes: a Czech grandfather was a celebrated authority on Janáček in bohemian Vienna. His sister is Julia Hollander, the ENO's youngest woman director. At Cambridge, Hollander was a zesty Cyrano in Sam Mendes's Marlowe Society production and subsequently joined Mendes's company at Chichester.

The glories of Oxbridge: Hollander is soon to be seen as the cox in *True Blue*, Channel 4's Boat Race movie. "We spent hour after hour being rained on by huge hoses with a wind-chill factor of minus 35 degrees," he says. "It was like the retreat from Moscow, but all good fun."

On acting: "On stage, for a few hours, your life is formalised, no longer chaotic. That can be relaxing."

On himself: " I'm ambitious," he says, "but quite lazy. On stage I think: 'This my chance to redeem a completely unimpressive existence.' "

KATE BASSETT

Class of '54 has aged beautifully

THEATRE

Salad Days
Vaudeville

DONALD COOPER

Richard Sisson, Nicola Fulljames, Simon Connolly — and magic piano — in the ever-enchanting Salad Days

Now look, if you start sneering at this delightfully absurd but *tuneful* musical, saying things like "It's *so* middle-class," I shall cheerfully agree with that and point out how neatly the story spins the heads-I-win-tails-you-lose coin by both being and mocking its class. The mockery is gentle, but the original cast recording reveals that even in 1954 Jane spoke in a terribly, terribly pure voice, and Timothy was frightfully, frightfully shy and manly: "Oh, Jane, will it help if I marry you? Only if it will help." The irony is an essential spice, without which the show could not work.

The characters, of course, are not middle-class at all: Jane's mother is Lady Raeburn, and the roll-call of Timothy's five uncles includes a member of the Cabinet, although goodness knows what Uncle Ambrose, the camp couturier, is doing among them. Kit Hesketh-Harvey's grimaces and wandering hands belong in burlesque, and I'd be surprised to learn that the role was such a reach-me-down caricature first time round.

The dress salon scene is one of several revue sketches that fill in the gaps in the story of the magic piano. Timothy and Jane, just down from university, take on the job of looking after the "vehicular instrument" for a month. His family keeps sending him to meet the uncles, which cues in several of the sketches, and the Cabinet uncle meanly wants to confiscate the piano, which cues in most of the others.

Certainly, this is a primitive structure for a show, and when scenes are not enlivened by a song the humour is exposed as equally antique. But these songs — catchy, clever and sweet-hearted — are irresistible. Julian Slade's melodies have that rare and blessed quality of proving themselves unforgettable after a single hearing. The lyrics too. In Jane's *I Sit in the Sun*, as in the duet *We Said We Wouldn't Look Back*, the simply rhymed, colloquial phrases fit the musical line so easily that words stay in the memory along with tune.

Simon Connolly catches the innocent charm of Timothy very fetchingly, but in Nicola Fulljames, playing Jane in a bright yellow New Look frock and long white gloves, Ned Sherrin's production has found a heroine capable of subtle touches of comedy and with a voice that is positively enchanting.

Hesketh-Harvey's other performances, mostly as uncles, are amusing, while his cabaret partner Richard Sisson (aka the Widow), reveals an attractive skill at not-too-winsome mime as the piano-playing clown, Troppo.

The revolving bandstand at the centre of Patrick Connellan's set solves the problem of bringing speed to the scene changes, but severely restricts the dancing area to the front of the stage. This is unfortunate in a show where outbursts of ungovernable dance are crucial to the story. I don't think we can even say that it jokily comments on the 1950s style, although, being in generous mood, that is how I propose to take the shadow thrown by the lamppost on the blue sky.

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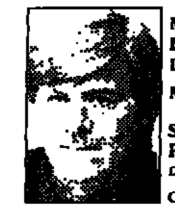

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Mon 22 Apr 7.30pm	**NFMS/ESSO YOUNG ARTISTS' CONCERT** William Purefoy, Stephen Wallace c-tenors, Roderick Williams, Jeremy Huw Williams baritones. Prog inc songs & duets by Purcell, Milhaud, Tippett, R. Williams (new work), Brahms, Donizetti & Schubert £11, £9, £7, £5 — Sponsored by Esso UK plc
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Wed 24 Apr 6.00pm NB: time	**PIOTR ANDERSZEWSKI** piano — Rush-Hour Concert Bach: English Suite in D minor BWV811 Beethoven: Sonata in A flat Op 110 All seats £5 — Wigmore Hall/BBC Radio 3
Thurs 25 Apr 7.30pm	**MICHELE CAMPANELLA** piano Brahms: The Complete Variations. Variations on a Theme by Schumann, Variations on a Theme by Handel; Variations on a Hungarian Song; Variations on an Original Theme, Variations on a Theme by Paganini £12, £10, £8, £6 — Susan Rivers/Pamela Garrasi
Fri 26 Apr 7.30pm	**SLAVA GRIGORYAN** guitar Mudarra: Fantasia No.10; Moreno-Torroba: Suite Castellano, Villa-Lobos: 2 Preludes; Albéniz: La Torre Bermeja; Sevilla. Works by Grigoryan, Turina, Corea & Shchedrin £12, £10, £8, £6 — Hazard Chase Ltd
Sat 27 Apr 7.30pm	**SKAMPA QUARTET** — Skampa Quartet Residency **WOLFGANG HOLZMAIR** baritone, **JIŘÍ BARTA** cello Antal Doráti: Hexaphonoa for baritone and string quintet Schubert: String Quintet in C D956 — £14, £12, £9, £6 *3pm: Haydn Trio masterclass with Andrew Marriner £5 (£3)*

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Registered Charity
MONDAY 20 MAY 7.30pm

75th BIRTHDAY CONCERT
with
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DJANGO BATES & Human Chain
and PRUNELLA SCALES
Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra
conducted by
SIAN EDWARDS, JAMES BLAIR, MARTYN BRABBINS
Shostakovich *Festival Overture*
Gershwin, Porter and **Kern** *Songs*
Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*
Dukas *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*
Django Bates *The Loneliness of Being Right*
Johann Strauss *Radetzky March*
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Wednesday 8 May 7.30pm
Evgeny Kissin
piano

Bach/Busoni
Chaconne
Schumann
Fantasia in C, Op 17
Beethoven
Sonata No 2, Moonlight
Liszt
Four Transcendental Studies Nos. 5, 8, 11, 10
Tickets from £8

Monday 13 May 7.30pm
Itzhak Perlman
violin

Mozart
Sonata No 8 in B flat, K454
Fauré
Sonata No 1 in A, Op 13
Franck
Sonata in A
Bruno Canino piano
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Bach Brandenburg Conceto No 3 Albinoni Adagio
Pachelbel Canon Clarke Trumpet Voluntary & Suite
Handel Let the Bright Seraphim I know that my Redeemer Liveth
Vivaldi Double Trumpet Concerto
The Four Seasons
Mozart Festival Orchestra *in costumes of the period*

Ian Watson *conductor*
William Houghton & Edward Hobart *trumpets*
Eirian Davies *soprano*
Christopher Warren-Green *violin*

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SATURDAY 22 JUNE at 7.30pm
ROYAL ALBERT HALL BOX OFFICE: 0171 589 8212
Tickets: £27.50 £25.50 £22.50 £19.50 £17.50 £14.50 £10.50 £7.50

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Victor Hochhauser presents
This Wednesday 24 April 7.30pm
IGOR OISTRAKH
The great Russian violinist plays
BEETHOVEN

English Chamber Orchestra
Conductor **Philip Ledger**
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BEETHOVEN *Two Romances for violin & orchestra*
BEETHOVEN *Violin Concerto in D*

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS
MATTHIAS BAMERT *Conductor*
HOWARD SHELLEY *Piano*
TUESDAY 30 APRIL 7.45pm
Haydn: Symphony No.43 *Mercury*
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No.4
Mozart: Symphony No.41 *Jupiter*
Sponsored by Générale des Eaux Group
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Tickets £8 - £18.50 Box Office 0171 960 4242

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Thursday 16th May 1996
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In honour of the founder of the original Proms Series in 1895.
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CONCERTS

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& QUEEN

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Date	Town	Venue	Box Office
Sun 14	Birmingham	Alexandra Theatre	0121 643 1231
Fri 19	Worthing	Assembley Hall	[illegible]
Sat 20	Newark	Palace Theatre	01636 71156
Sun 21	Coventry	Belgrade Theatre	01203 553055
Fri 26	Luton	The Palace	[illegible]
Sun 28	Oxford	Apollo Theatre	01865 244544

MAY '96

Date	Town	Venue	Box Office
Sat 4	[illegible]	Memorial Hall	[illegible]
Sun 5	Edinburgh	Playhouse Theatre	0131 557 2590
Mon 6	Aberdeen	Capitol Theatre	[illegible]
Thurs 9	Gloucester	Leisure Centre	[illegible]
Fri 10	Colne	Municipal Hall	[illegible]
Sat 11	St Helens	Theatre Royal	[illegible]
Sun 12	South Shields	The Custom House	0191 454 1234
Fri 17	Doncaster	The Dome	[illegible]
Sat 18	Scarborough	Futurist Theatre	[illegible]
Sun 19	York	Grand Opera House	01904 671818
Fri 24	Camberley	Arts Link	[illegible]
Sun 26	Torquay	Princess Theatre	[illegible]
Mon 27	Weymouth	Pavilion Complex	[illegible]
Thurs 30	Stafford	The Gatehouse Theatre	[illegible]
Fri 31	Ellesmere Port	Civic Hall	0151 356 7652

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Event Travel
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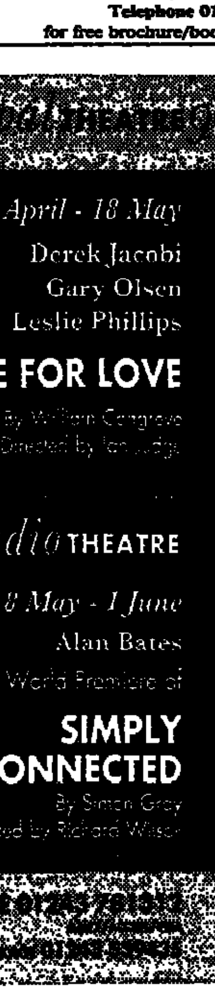

25 April - 18 May
Derek Jacobi
Gary Olsen
Leslie Phillips
LOVE FOR LOVE
By William Congreve
Directed by Ian Judge

MINERVA *studio* THEATRE
8 May - 1 June
Alan Bates
World Premiere of
SIMPLY DISCONNECTED
By Simon Gray
Directed by Richard Wilson

BOX OFFICE 01243 [illegible]

THEATRES

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EVES 8PM,
MAT 18 MAY 3PM
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Tue (First Night), Fri 7.30 **TOSCA**
The Royal Ballet
Wed 7.30 Ashton's
ILLUMINATIONS/ SYMPHONIC VARIATIONS/THE DREAM

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Opens 30 April

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APOLLO Shaftesbury Ave 0171 494 5070 Previews from 9 May. Eves 8pm, Thu mat 3pm Sat 5 & 8.15. Press Night 20 May 7pm
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Maria Aitken
Robin Ellis
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a romantic comedy by **A.R. Gurney**
directed by **Michael Blakemore**

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Eves 7.30, Sat at 5.30 & 8.30

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"FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday
"BREATHTAKING" Independent
Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

COMEDY 0171 369 1731/ cc 344 4444 (24hrs)
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TWELVE ANGRY MEN
Directed by **Harold Pinter**
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"Hilarious" Times
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FRI 5.30 PERF ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE

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MARIA FRIEDMAN
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Today 1.30 & 7.30

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JOLSON
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On Monday Nights
Allan Stewart will play Jolson
Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
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"Funny, filthy and furious" FT
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"One of the events of the year"
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■ INTERVIEW

Stepping into Henry Fonda's shoes: Kevin Whately on the challenge of *Twelve Angry Men*

■ MUSIC

Peter Donohoe struggles with a poor piano to play fine Rachmaninov in Cheltenham

THE TIMES ARTS

■ BASE NOTES

Tim Roth will make his debut as a director this year — filming *The War Zone* in Devon

■ BASE NOTES

. . . while Tom Waits wins a three-year court battle with his own music publishers

Daniel Rosenthal talks to Kevin Whately about his West End stage debut in *Twelve Angry Men*

A case of following Fonda

During his five-year absence from the stage, Kevin Whately has continued to experience what he calls "mind-boggling" small-screen popularity.

As family-adoring Sergeant Lewis in *Inspector Morse*, fiery Dr Jack Kerruish in *Peak Practice*, and naive carpenter Neville Hope in the recent Channel 4 reruns of *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*, Whately has rarely been away from the nation's living rooms for long. Plum parts in three of the most successful television series of the past two decades — not a bad record for a man who graduated from London's Central School of Speech and Drama convinced he "would never be anything other than a stage actor".

The return to theatre — and his West End debut — comes in Reginald Rose's *Twelve Angry Men*. Whately plays the liberal architect who, on a baking hot day in New York in 1954, sets out to persuade 11 fellow jurors that despite apparently conclusive evidence, a 16-year-old boy accused of murdering his brutal father may not be guilty.

The offer to join Harold Pinter's production was irresistible. "I couldn't turn down a chance to work with a living legend," Whately says. "*Twelve Angry Men* also appealed because it's an ensemble piece, not a star vehicle." He describes the company, which includes Timothy West and Tim Healy (the builders' leader in *Auf Wiedersehen*), as "a good bunch of clever actors, with no flashy egos".

Rose's enthralling play was written soon after he served as a juror on a manslaughter trial (the defendant was convicted of a lesser charge) and has enjoyed enduring fame through the Oscar-nominated film version, which had Henry Fonda as the architect and was the first of director Sidney Lumet's numerous cinematic explorations of crime and punishment in New York.

> ‘It's vital that the audience sees the race issue clearly’

"Don't mention the film" became the Basil Fawlty-like rehearsal motto for Pinter's dozen, but Whately "sneaked another look" when Fonda and company popped up on television shortly before the production began a month-long run at the Bristol Old Vic.

"It's a great film," he says. "But while the camera's always going in close on Fonda, on stage you get to see all the jurors' reactions at once, which is much more interesting. There's also more humour in our version.

"The accused boy is obviously from an ethnic minority, probably black or Puerto Rican, but the speeches by the most racist juror were heavily cut in the film. We haven't cut them because it's important that the audience sees the race issue clearly."

Liberal conscience: Kevin Whately plays the Henry Fonda role in Harold Pinter's production of *Twelve Angry Men*

Those who know Whately only through television may be surprised by his theatrical pedigree. Born in the North Tyne Valley, the son of a merchant seaman, he abandoned accountancy training in Newcastle to pursue the acting bug which first struck at the age of four with family plays directed by his elder sister. Drama school was followed by several years in rep, and his CV includes John Proctor in *The Crucible* (twice), Prince Hal, Billy Liar and, most recently, a National Front agent provocateur at the Bush.

After playing a lorry driver in *Coronation Street* for six weeks, his television breakthrough came in 1983 thanks to *Auf Wiedersehen*, Dick Clement's and Ian La Frenais's glorious tales of British builders on the make in Germany and Spain, with Whately as the shyest member of an occasionally wild bunch.

Next came the *Inspector Morse* phenomenon: 29 films in eight years, hundreds of millions of viewers in more than 50 countries. The golden hat-trick, which Whately attributes largely to top-class writing, was completed in 1993, when 14 million watched GP Dr Jack Kerruish saving lives in the first of his three series of *Peak Practice*.

Adjusting to the fame that accompanies such huge audiences was traumatic and Whately still finds life as "a telly face" strange. "I can't conceive of a million people watching me, never mind hundreds of millions. The younger actors in *Twelve Angry Men* see what that popularity is like when people approach me for autographs. I was in their position before I got into television. When I was on tour with Stephen Hancock, who was Ernie Bishop in *Coronation Street* for years, he was mobbed everywhere.

"I find television work less rewarding than theatre, but it has its own excitement and is obviously much more lucrative. I've done so much of it because with young kids [Kitty, now 13, and Kieran, 11], I couldn't afford to keep doing rep for £180 a week."

Whately's presence in so much repeat-friendly drama means that even when, as now, he is taking a break from television, television appears unwilling to take a break from him. "As I walked into the green room for the interval on *Twelve Angry Men*'s first Saturday night in Bristol, the understudies were watching *Auf Wiedersehen*. I was suddenly confronted by my, Tim Healy and the other lads' naked bums duck-diving into a Spanish swimming pool."

- *Twelve Angry Men opens at the Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) on Monday*

No hiding place from an ill wind

CONCERT

Rhineland PO/Klee
Cheltenham

WHEN a German orchestra tours this country and devotes the first half of every concert on the itinerary to Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto, you wonder what it has to hide. Surely an ensemble as venerable as the Rhineland Philharmonic, which has worked with conductors as distinguished as Wilhelm Furtwängler and Richard Strauss, should be presenting its credentials, asserting its personality and generally displaying its virtuosity by opening its concerts with *Don Juan*, say, or *Till Eulenspiegel*. Or would that have been too outrageously bold to contemplate?

It is true that Peter Donohoe playing Rachmaninov is always an attractive prospect — which was presumably a major consideration in the thinking which consigned Bernhard Klee and the Rhineland Philharmonic to the role of accompanying a British pianist for the greater part of ten programmes in ten British concert halls. They could not have known that at Cheltenham Town Hall, the first stop on the tour, the piano would be in such a condition that much of the performance of Rachmaninov's D minor Concerto would be an ear-bruising experience. The integrity of Donohoe's interpretation, his characteristically wholehearted devotion to the emotional issues and his splendid declaration of authority at the climax of the last movement will surely meet fewer obstacles later in the tour.

As for what the orchestra might have to hide, a woodwind section such as that of the Rhineland Philharmonic cannot be concealed for very long, even in a Rachmaninov Piano Concerto. After the first-movement cadenza, for example, each of the flute, oboe and clarinet entries seemed to based on a different assessment of standard pitch. By the end of the first movement of Brahms's First Symphony, intonation was so bad that the woodwinds were requested to retune — not in the first place by the conductor but, through him, by a leader who was obviously not very happy about the situation.

Klee clearly prefers to concentrate on his strings. His reward is a string sound which is robust but, in its imperfect ensemble, unrefined. As we know from his association with the BBC Philharmonic not very long ago, he is a musician with more to offer.

GERALD LARNER

BASE NOTES

TWO of Britain's top composers have been commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra to write cello concertos for **Mstislav Rostropovich**. The world premiere of **Colin Matthews**'s new concerto will take place at the Barbican on September 17; two weeks later, on October 3, the cellist is scheduled to perform the world premiere of **James MacMillan**'s new concerto, "composed with the enormous musical and technical strengths of Mstislav Rostropovich in mind".

● **Tom Waits**, who sued his music publishers for allowing the song *Heart Attack & Vine* to be used in a TV commercial for Levis, has had the decision in his favour upheld by the Californian Court of Appeal. The decision ends three years of litigation, and follows a £2.5 million settlement to the singer-songwriter made after a corn chips manufacturer used a Waits impersonator to promote its product.

● THE actor **Tim Roth** is to make his directorial debut this year, filming **Alexander Stuart's** much-praised novel about an incestuous father-daughter relationship, *The War Zone*. Filming will take place in Devon, but casting details have yet to be released.

● ONE of cinema's foremost historians and critics, **David Robinson**, has been honoured at the San Francisco International Film Festival. Robinson, veteran film critic of *The Times* and author of many books (including ones about Buster Keaton, Richard Attenborough, George Méliès and Charlie Chaplin), is named as recipient of the Mel Novikoff Award, which honours an individual or institution whose work has enhanced the public's knowledge of film.

● **Sam Shepard** may be one of America's leading dramatists but he's never had a play on Broadway. Until now, that is. On April 30 Steppenwolf Theatre Company of Chicago will bring to Broadway its acclaimed production of Shepard's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Buried Child*, first seen in 1978. The director is Gary Sinise, better known these days as Tom Hanks's co-star in both *Forrest Gump* and *Apollo 13*

THE SUNDAY TIMES

JEFFREY ARCHER

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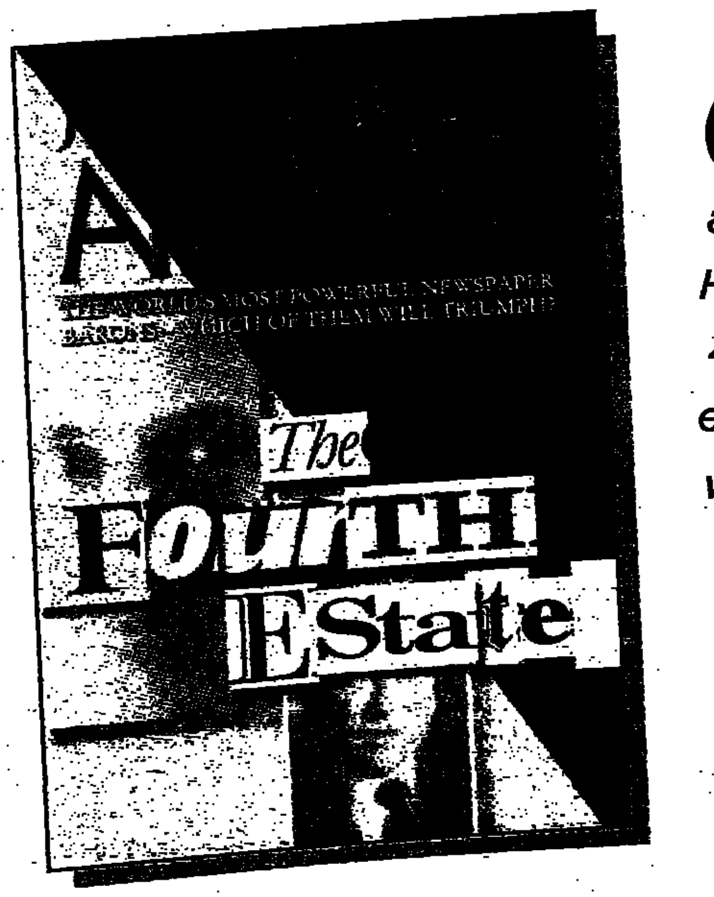
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TIMES 20/4/96

Niall Ferguson shows how, since 1989, history has been going backwards towards the ancien régime, as modernity unravels

The ghosts of the past return

The eminent German historian and strategic analyst, Michael Stürmer, speaking off-the-cuff at a small dinner party the other day given for him by Lord Weidenfeld, said: "1989 was a turning point at which history failed to turn."

It may have been the quality of the wine being served, but that phrase — an updating of A.J.P Taylor's famous one-liner about 1848 — threw a switch in the mind of one of the guests. Not so. I found myself thinking. 1989 *was* a turning point, all right. The trouble is that history turned 180 degrees — and ever since it has been running backwards.

The idea of history in reverse may seem bizarre — the stuff of science fiction. Yet the more I think about it, the more useful it seems as an insight into the nature of most, if not all, of our present tribulations. Ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall, those who make a living from analysing the immediate past and foretelling the future — the Francis Fukuyamas and Paul Kennedys of this world — have been struggling. Now I think I see why. In trying to look ahead for trends, they are facing the wrong way.

In fact, the secret of the future lies *behind* us; and to see where we are heading, all you have to do is press rewind. But remember: history moves backwards a great deal faster than it moved forward.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Empire, the historic achievements of not only the 20th century but also the 19th (and in some cases even the 18th) have been unravelling with extraordinary rapidity. For example: probably the most important political products of the modern era were the nation states. In fact, few of them were as homogeneous, ethnically or culturally, as their propagandists liked to claim; and a great many held on to or acquired large empires, the existence of which was at variance with the principle of self-determination. Nevertheless, beginning *circa* 1650, they emerged, one by one, out of the mish-mash of dynastic pseudo-empires and petty principalities: first Britain, Russia and France, then the United States, followed in the 19th century by Greece, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Romania and Bulgaria, and in the 20th (after immense bloodshed) Ireland, Poland, Yugoslavia and the rest.

1989 appeared to be the culmination of this process: the reunification of Germany and the creation of nation states for the hitherto vassal peoples of Eastern Europe. In reality, it has proved to be the end of the nationalist road, and the nation states have been dissolving with amazing speed ever since. Yugoslavia was the first and most horrendous case; Czechoslovakia went more quietly. At the same time, the Franco-German project to create a European federation has led to a creeping dissolution of the West European states, beginning in Italy (now almost "de-unified"). As a result, the end-product of Maastricht seems likely to look more like the Holy Roman Empire than the *Bundesrepublik Europa* of Helmut Kohl's dreams. What is more — though it is not generally realised — this process of disintegration is already accelerating in Belgium, in Spain and, of course, in Britain.

For under the impending Labour government, history looks like being reversed on a grand scale, with the effective repeal of the 1707 Act of Union and the restoration of the Edinburgh Parliament, as well (it seems reasonable to suppose) as the continuing surreptitious transfer of Ulster to the Dublin Republic. This effectively means the demolition of the entire Hanoverian edifice we know as Great Britain. See what I mean?

Nor is this purely a European phenomenon. While Russia recedes to the borders of Muscovy (for the second time this century, incidentally), more and more voters of the other ex-superpower seem intent on dismantling the great central government in Washington which sprang up after 1914. The achievements of the Big Government Presidents — Roosevelt, Kennedy, Johnson — seem doomed to be undone as the agenda of American politics is increasingly set by a populist movement such as has not been seen since the 1890s. At the same time, Canada teeters on the brink of Quebecois secession.

Meanwhile, a great but closed empire dominates the Far East — though the possibility cannot be ruled out that when Emperor Deng dies, the empire may break up, so uneven has been the recent process of economic development. And in North Africa and the Middle East, a reviving Islam is undermining the system of nation states constructed in the ruins of the Ottoman Empire between the 1820s and the 1920s. (For this reason, Israeli neurosis about the future is not irrational. Though modernity has conferred both blessings and curses on the Jews, the prospect of a return to the 18th century is hardly an enticing one.)

All this means good business for the people who draw and publish maps, you may say, but how does it affect Middle England? Surely we, with our satellite dishes, are destined for more of the same in the 21st century?

Wrong. For the reality is that even our apparently ultra-modern society is well on the way back to the 18th century. When that wartime behemoth, the welfare state, finally collapses under its own weight, a distinctly ancien régime society will stand revealed — from the aristocratic to underclass The only difference is that today, in the absence of capital punishment and transportation the State lacks the means of disciplining them.

As for our politics, there is no mistaking the 18th-century quality of new Labour. Lord Irvine's Whigs, led in the Commons by his youthful junior Mr Blair, are now poised to oust Lord Mackay's demoralised Tory ministry and then continue its policies, whatever those may be. On the quangos which run the country, Tory placemen will be replaced by Whig placemen. Meanwhile, the Royal Family falls further and further into disrepute — though instead of the *Madness of King George III* we must look forward, I fear, to the madness of Charles III.

In Martin Amis's *Time's Arrow*, the central character dies at the beginning of the novel, and is born at the end. Something similar appears to have been happening to history. As Professor Stürmer was quick to point out, this is bad news for Germany. But, on reflection, I think it may be rather good news for England. After all, what is national decline when it is played backwards?

The author is a fellow of Jesus College, Oxford.

Don't dwarf the capital

The giant Ferris wheel is a PR stunt, says **Giles Worsley**

British Airways did not become the World's Favourite Airline without a certain ingenuity, but nothing could beat the subtle way in which it has suggested building the world's largest corporate advertisement in the very heart of London. Five hundred feet high, towering over Big Ben, taller than St Paul's Cathedral, the British Airways Millennium Wheel proposed for the South Bank is portrayed as an altruistic millennium gesture. But, if built, it will undoubtedly be the symbol of London in 2000, when we will not be allowed to forget that it was British Airways that gave it to us.

The airline has moved smoothly in to support a scheme floated last year by the architects David Marks and Julia Barfield. At the time it was roundly condemned by the Royal Fine Art Commission for its visual intrusion on London's skyline. But, supported by the airline for a fraction of the cost of one new plane, it has now returned. What makes BA's scheme so ingenious, as its chief executive Bob Ayling acknowledged, is that while the firm is putting up £600,000 of start-up capital towards a total cost of £9.5 million, the expected two million visitors a year — at £5 a head for adults and half price for children — should soon recoup the costs. The largest corporate advertisement in the world, symbol of London for the millennium, and possibly free — no wonder BA is so keen on the concept.

The idea of a giant Ferris wheel is harmless and entertaining in itself, although quite why a Ferris wheel should be seen as a futuristic statement is unclear. It is exactly 100 years since the death of the wheel's inventor, the American G.W.G. Ferris. If anything, it suggests the slightly tawdry, run-down Europe of postwar Vienna in Orson Welles's film *The Third Man*. But such a wheel would only be harmless and entertaining in the right place. That place is not the centre of London.

Little more than Modernist nostalgia lies behind the belief that the South Bank is an appropriate site. This was the home of the 1951 Festival of Britain, that last moment of Modernist innocence, before the harsh realities of postwar development destroyed the illusion that a planner's Utopia was possible. But the South Bank has moved on.

This is not to say that something could not be done to make London more attractive to children, and this is perhaps the best argument for building a Ferris wheel. But the place for giant funfairs is on the outskirts of London. If we want children to find London more exciting, we should make what we have more attractive. The young are attracted by more than funfairs — an interactive science park and more children's concerts, for instance, would suit the South Bank better.

Lambeth council is unlikely to look dispassionately on the scheme, but this is an issue that stretches far beyond its boundaries. For all the talk of delicate materials, this is a massive structure which will have a crushing effect on Whitehall and the Royal Parks and a profound and unexpected impact much further away. Should Lambeth grant planning permission, it should certainly be called in by the Secretary of State for the Environment, even if the wheel is only intended to stand for five years. And that is a statement that must be treated with caution. History suggests that inertia has a strange way of ensuring that temporary buildings never come down.

If BA is sincere in its altruistic desire to help to regenerate a run-down area, it should put its wheel where it would really make a difference. Cardiff Docks, where it could give stunning views across the Severn to England and northward to the Welsh Mountains, is an obvious choice. There the visitors and attention the wheel would draw could have a dramatic effect on an area struggling to revitalise itself. An obvious alternative is the Greenwich Peninsula, intended home of the Millennium Festival, to which the wheel would make a superb focus. But, torn from its prime position in the heart of London, this 500ft-high advertisement might not have quite the same attraction to BA's publicity team.

The author is editor of Perspectives on Architecture.

Kicking accidents into touch

When a referee can be sued, it is a sad day for rugby — and for liberty

Simon Jenkins

My raggle-taggle army is in retreat. We stumble blind across the battlefield, beaten at every turn. Yesterday the High Court dealt us another blow and left us reeling. We are the army of Most Reasonable People. We cut a sorry sight.

Most reasonable people will have been left gasping by yesterday's decision by Mr Justice Curtis in the case of the rugby referee. An honest man giving up an afternoon to help boys to enjoy their sport is found guilty of culpable negligence for not stopping a scrum collapsing. He is now liable for £1 million in damages. Most reasonable people will throw up their hands in despair. Yet most reasonable people are not a consideration here. The law has found its way into one more area of community life. Yet another activity must surround itself with defensive insurance, legal advice and expense. Yet another band of selfless volunteers will say "to hell with it" and stay at home.

At the bottom of my drawer is a folder marked Legal Lunacies. It is bulging with material. A parent sues a theatre because *Peter Pan* scared her child. A policeman sues for a blister caused while using a CS gas can. Two women sue their boss for telling sexist jokes in his annual speech. A dancer sues a floor polisher for making the ballroom too slippery. An armed robber sues for pain and distress involved in his arrest. Seventy pupils sue their school because they did not do better in exams.

The British are now suing with the same abandon as Americans. My transatlantic collection includes people suing for sliced golf shots, for fallen buttocks, for over-hot McDonald's coffee, for the shock of seeing Mickey Mouse in daytime clothes and for not finding salvation in a Baptist church. The Western bourgeoisie no longer sues merely for financial loss. It sues for trauma, distress, embarrassment. It sues to be made happy or for a million pounds. As for accidents, they no longer exist. The world has given up on Acts of God. The Almighty no longer moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform. One wrong move and He goes down for culpable negligence.

To lawyers, I am sure that yesterday's judgment in the case of the injured rugby player will seem a fine one. If we play a game under rules intended to protect our safety and submit to the decisions of a referee, we expect him to do the job. If we break our necks because, in our view, he failed to blow the whistle in time, we are entitled to complain. In 1991, 17-year-old Ben Smolon broke his neck playing for Sutton Coldfield Colts. He maintains that the dangerous practice of players collapsing the scrum had got of hand. The referee, Michael Nolan, should have stopped it sooner than he did.

Rugby is an unpredictable and sometimes violent game — should players who risk life and limb be able to sue referees for damages?

Most reasonable people would react by feeling deeply sorry for Mr Smolon. Like hundreds of victims of this exhilarating but absurdly violent game, he is confined to a wheelchair. The Twickenham touchline at big matches has a phalanx of wheelchairs, none of whose occupants has ever sued the game they love (and who must now be cursing their solicitors). Perhaps the Staffordshire referee might have blown his whistle a second earlier. Perhaps a complaint might have been made to the Society of Rugby Football Referees. Perhaps Mr Nolan should not be allowed to referee any more games, or at least should undergo retraining. But a law suit? A High Court judgment? A million pounds demanded?

The dwindling band of reasonable people might also wonder why Mr Smolon's parents did not take out injury insurance, given the known risks of rugby. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, this is by far the most dangerous sport for serious injury. (Next come skating, riding and skiing.) Put your son in the front row of a Staffordshire scrum and you have an accident waiting to happen. If money was going to be so important to Mr Smolon in the event of injury, cover would have been shrewd as well as wise. Why take a gamble on an opponent's insurer not having a million pounds to spare, when you can insure for a million pounds yourself?

I find all this obscene. The courts have now thrown open their doors to players in any game to treat a referee's decision as vulnerable to judicial review. The Lord Chief Justice should be as outspoken with a judge who encourages such outrageous litigation as he is with the Home Secretary. These suits should not just be thrown out of court, they should be binned on receipt. Like the current craze for judicial review of public administration, negligence litigation may have its roots in legitimate grievance, but it risks polluting public and private life. Such litigation does not make for better professional judgment, it merely makes for ultra-cautious judgment and escalating cost. Every doctor, architect, accountant, administrator, minister even, now sits enveloped in advice and fees. This in turn induces their clients to see them as a soft touch should accident befall.

I accept that a principle of culpable negligence must be upheld if people are to be protected against risks they cannot reasonably predict. The civil courts must be available to hold purveyors of goods and services accountable, especially where the service is a professional one based on trust in another's judgment. We seek redress for professional errors not just because they are often catastrophic — a lost leg, a collapsed house, a bankrupt business — but to deter and protect others.

Yet there must be a boundary between such redress and dumping all responsibility for risk onto others, marked by the single word, trust. Time was when we accepted that a professional person sought to do his or her best. If something went wrong, pending the hearing of a disciplinary tribunal, we treated it as bad luck. Accidents happen even in the best-regulated professions. In games, the essence of sportsmanship is to treat injury as accident. If equipment or supervision is dangerous, that is the risk we take. Sometimes the luck runs against us.

A common thread through my file of lunacy is a yearning to deny bad luck. People long to find a reason for their misfortune that can be pinned on somebody else. And always there is the excuse that nobody is really hurt by litigation because an insurer (or government) will pick up the tab.

Against this onward march of the suing classes, my shrinking platoon of reasonables can only fall back on philosophy. They hold to their belief that accidents do happen, that life is full of perils. Some of these perils are caused by human beings operating at less than 100 per cent efficiency. What Americans call tort abuse may make us more careful. But this is not an undiluted good. It distorts professional judgment and increases insurance costs. We take the Acts of God, redistribute them and add 10 or 20 or 30 per cent.

There must be a limit to this redistribution. Individuals should be left with some responsibility for their actions, for the risks involved in the business of living. The principle of caveat emptor is a useful discipline. It balances caution against risk and pins responsibility for reaching that balance firmly on personal choice. Ask a judge to find the balance, topple the goddess Luck and set in her place the ambulance chaser and the insurance broker and you diminish individual responsibility and personal freedom. You make a safer world, but a meaner one.

THE TIMES DIARY

Regal fidget

PAINTING the Queen would be a daunting enough task for an artist of age and maturity, but for Antony Williams, 31, it has proved palette-snappingly hard.

It is not so much that Williams lacks the painterly skills. The problem is the Queen. She is both a chatterbox and a fidget.

"Cancelled our holidays at the last minute, old chap"

Williams, 31, won a competition last year to paint an eminent person. Surprised to find his subject would be the Queen on her 70th birthday, he gulped and packed his brushes for a trip to the Palace. After the agreed six sittings, however, Williams has had to ask for more to make up for time lost through regal distractions.

First, he found that when he struggled up to London, the sittings would be armaged in different rooms with different light. Then there was the Queen. "She was very talkative, very animated," said Williams. "She initiated any conversation and I tended to react. But it was quite hard to keep up with her. She is incredibly well informed and it was a problem trying to concentrate on the painting."

Worse was her fidgeting. "I had to ask her private secretary for permission to ask her to sit still. He said yes, I was the boss; so I asked her very courteously. It didn't have much effect. She sat still for about two minutes and then something would catch her eye — Anne in the garden or something."

Thankfully, Williams is now on the home straight and will have his painting ready for its unveiling at the Mall Galleries next month. Phew.

- *For masculine charms, look no further than Boris Yeltsin. Though he seemed to be spinning a little out of control last year, pinching women's bottoms and dancing on an official walkabout with Helmut Kohl, he now has his rampant virility back in its kennel. On a recent state visit to Norway, on the way into an official lunch, he grabbed the arms of Queen Sonja, dressed in red, and Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, in white, and with a hugh grin said in Russian: "Raspberries and cream."*

Open house

BISHOPSTHORPE Palace, the home of the Archbishop of York, is to be opened to the public for the first time. The current occupant, Dr David Hope, a bachelor, says he wants as many people as possible to share the beauty of his new digs, which he clearly finds slightly overwhelming after the poky flat he had as Bishop of London.

The doors of the palace will be thrown open to pre-booked parties of between 10 and 50 at £2 a head, but not to individuals. The funds raised will go towards the upkeep of the building and nine acres of grounds, which feature a chapel dating back to 1241 and a Great Hall which was rebuilt in the 17th century. "It seemed a pity to keep it for one's own use," says Dr Hope. "I wanted to share it with other people."

- *Vegetable growers are employing unusual methods to produce a good crop. Peter Perrson, a New Zealander who grows tomatoes hydroponically, uses discarded bras as a source of cheap and effective support for his produce. He has even undertaken a colour evaluation and says that three days in a white bra followed by two days in a black one ripens the crop perfectly.*

Short shrift

BEFORE delivering yesterday's John Smith Memorial Lecture, the Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown used his weekly column in Glasgow's *Daily Record* to fire a shot at the heroic Clare Short, one of the last members of the Shadow Cabinet to hold firm against Tony Blair's beige revolution.

Brown said he would not use the lecture to announce any tax policy because "Clare Short has a prior engagement and won't be in the audience. I'd want her to be one of the first to know." In view of the venom spat by Labour's high command at Miss Short for her statement last week that she could pay a bit more tax, Brown may not be joking.

Scene stealers

WHEN the Israeli missiles started to rain on southern Lebanon recently, a BBC television crew found themselves in Beirut having to produce a report on the supposed rising panic.

Finding nothing but calm on the streets, they climbed up to the roof of the Commodore hotel to film some general skyline shots. Arriving on the roof in their flak-jackets they found two British Mediterranean air hostesses sunbathing in their bikinis.

In the spirit of William Boot in Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop*, the director asked: "Would you mind moving? Having you two in the picture might ruin the credibility of our city in crisis story."

All about Yves

FIRST he supplied frocks to the Duchess of York for her recent white-wash spread in *Hello!* magazine. Now Yves Saint Laurent has stepped one rung further down the celebrity scale to dress the football agent and incorrigible self-publicist, Eric Hall.

"They can spot a monster clothes horse when they see one," said Hall, a funny little fellow with a taste for fat cigars, from deep inside an aquamarine dinner-jacket.

Eric Hall: high fashion

"Eric has been signed to wear our clothes," explained a spokesman for the fashion house, which back in France dresses rather more soignée types such as Catherine Deneuve.

"He may not be the person you think of first when it comes to sartorial elegance, but our clothes appeal to a wide range of people."

P·H·S

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

cancer girl

Britain is criticised over Pill scare

Gold

APR.

1 172

LONG TO REIGN

The nation is blessed by a resilient monarch, and monarchy

Tomorrow the Queen will be 70 and the nation will have rich cause to celebrate. In her 44 years as head of state she has performed with a grace and poise that have disarmed criticism. Anniversaries are occasions for reflection, and on this birthday there is good reason for the nation to take the longer view which the Queen, by virtue of experience and office, has always held.

Nearly 100 years ago, in 1897, Queen Victoria, ruler of one quarter of the globe, celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. In her own lifetime criticism of the monarchy had grown, but she, and the Crown, outlived the critics. Since then Britain has endured decline. The nation has been overtaken economically, its rulers have seen authority seep away, its Empire has dwindled to a cluster of rocky outcrops. Throughout the social and economic upheaval this country has, with the sad exception of Northern Ireland, enjoyed civil peace and stability. The institution that has guaranteed that is the monarchy.

There is a strong mood today that the monarchy's survival depends on the Queen's. It is argued that respect for her personal dignity and gratitude for her obvious sense of duty is the only reason not to move to a more "modern" constitutional settlement, specifically a republic. Republicans, from the Marxist Tom Nairn to the free market radical Stephen Haseler, have argued that the monarchy mires Britain in nostalgia and inhibits necessary change. Republicans sense the widespread and justified distaste for the behaviour of some younger members of the Royal Family and exploit it to argue that when generations change, so should systems.

The tribute that even the most determined republicans pay the Queen is no more than her due. Although criticised for complicity with Macmillan in elevating Home to the premiership in 1963 and, more recently, for her readiness to intervene to keep Canada together, she has been more sure-footed than her ministers. On both, indeed on all politically sensitive occasions of which we know, the Queen has underwritten rather than undermined the acts of elected politicians — as a figure herself above politics. No elected President could command the same authority. The Queen's wisdom and restraint have enhanced the reputation of monarchy but the health of the constitution depends on the survival of the institution, not the individual.

There are qualities specific to the monarchy, independent of the personality of the King or Queen, for which the nation might give thanks this weekend. The Queen, in the words of Vernon Bogdanor, "interprets the nation to itself". The monarch is an emotionally satisfying focus for national loyalty. Far from impeding change, the monarchy and our settled constitutional order have made change easier to bear. Reforming Governments of the Left from Gladstone to Wilson have recognised how valuable stability at the top has been in helping to improve the lot of those at the bottom.

Across the globe the evidence suggests that constitutional continuity helps a people to cope with modernity's strains. The pain of losing an empire was assuaged in Britain by the Queen but it destroyed the French Fourth Republic. A monarch helped Spain to democratise itself. No advanced nation has a monarchy quite as traditional as Japan's, yet few have been as economically successful with such a scarcity of natural resources.

The nation should forget the Royal Family's recent sadnesses and focus on how well monarchy has served this country through a time of traumas. Over the next 12 months dealing with change will be the matter of fierce political competition. That our head of state should be above the partisan struggle is a blessing. There may be no better birthday wish for Her Majesty than that that she, and the Throne she graces, should continue to enjoy long life.

AMBER ALERT

Britain grapples with new Chinese threats to Hong Kong

Malcolm Rifkind meets his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, today in The Hague at a critical juncture for Hong Kong. In the past few weeks, China has done everything possible to undermine the legitimacy of the Hong Kong Government and its democratically elected legislature. Its plans to create a "provisional legislature" to replace the existing elected Legislative Council are contrary to the spirit and the letter of the 1984 Sino-British Declaration and have no legal basis in China's own Basic Law for post-1997 Hong Kong. John Major's promise, when he was in Hong Kong last month, that if "there were any suggestion of a breach of the Joint Declaration, we would mobilise the international community and pursue every legal or other avenue open to us" is being put to an almost immediate test.

Mr Rifkind has condemned these decisions but in terms designed to stop just short of declaring China in breach of the 1984 treaty. Chris Patten, Hong Kong's Governor, points out that the provisional legislature has no "constitutional position", but adds carefully that it is up to China to justify its legality. The British approach is to treat this as a political rather than a legal problem, in the hope that Britain can convince China that if it goes ahead, it will inflict huge damage on its international standing as a law-abiding power, as well as undermining the prosperity of Hong Kong.

This tactic would have sounded more plausible a few months ago than it does now: China has demonstrated, in the Taiwan Strait, its readiness to put "sovereignty" far ahead of such material considerations. In addition, the Hong Kong preparatory committee dealing with the transition, chaired by Mr Qian himself, has now blocked this avenue of escape by announcing that it intends to install the provisional legislature even before the handover. China's deliberate aim is to create two rival centres of power. Its officials have told civil servants that if they do not co-operate with it, they will be dismissed when China takes over.

Mr Patten has rightly refused to undermine the legally constituted legislature by according this body any form of recognition. But even if he does not, China's action would inescapably be in breach of the article of the Joint Declaration which binds China to cooperate with Britain as the sole governing authority prior to July 1, 1997. If Mr Rifkind does not say so firmly, and outline the legal steps which Britain would be compelled to take, the Chinese will treat Mr Major's pledge as mere howling in the wind.

The legality of the provisional legislature is being challenged not only by Hong Kong's democrats but by eminent lawyers whom China consulted when it was drafting the Basic Law and even by many of Peking's normally unquestioning supporters. Britain has a duty to be at least as robust as those who will live under Chinese sovereignty after June, 1997. Confidence in Hong Kong is weakening even in the hitherto unflurried business community. International concern is mounting; Merrill Lynch this week issued an "amber alert" on Hong Kong stocks, pointing to the "growing risk of politically induced fallout". China has shown itself immune to political persuasion, but sensitive to charges that it is failing to abide by its legal undertakings. Politically, this is the right time for Britain to make its stand on legal principle. Legally, now that China has made its intentions plain, Britain can only weaken its case by delaying its challenge.

BENEFIT TRANSFER

Labour proposes a better way of encouraging children to learn

Few things are more expensive in life than children. Feeding, clothing and, for some, educating the offspring takes a huge chunk out of family income. That is why, in almost every country, the tax system recognises the extra cost of raising children.

In Britain, what was once a child tax allowance was transformed in 1979 to a child benefit. The big advantage is that the money goes straight to the mother and is more likely to be spent on what it was intended to finance. The disadvantage, however, is that child benefit now looks like a State handout, part of the social security system, whereas in fact it represents a handing back of what used not to be taken away.

This is the best argument against turning what is now a universal benefit into a means-tested one. The cost of bringing up children should be recognised in all families. But after the age of 16, child benefit ceases to be universal and is paid only to the mothers of children who are still in full-time education. It is this money — a substantial £700 million — that Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, wants to see differently targeted.

At the moment, children who stay at school after the age of 16 are likely already to have come from more prosperous families. Mr Brown last night drew out some unsettling statistics. For instance, 80 per cent of the children of unskilled men leave school at 16, most with no qualifications at all. Three-quarters of them receive no further training or education. It is clear, therefore, that the extension of child benefits beyond 16 years is not serving the purpose for which it was intended — encouraging poorer children to stay at school. Rather it is essentially giving tax revenues back to the middle class from whom they were collected — an outcome which Labour understandably regards with less approval than the Tories.

Mr Brown's proposal is that the £700 million saved by scrapping these child benefits should instead be spent on supporting those 16 to 18-year-olds who would benefit from full-time education but could not otherwise afford it. This would not just be socially desirable, it could also make economic sense in a world of shrinking demand for unskilled school-leavers. The question, however, is whether giving state handouts directly to young people would be the best way of improving their educational chances and recycling the money Mr Brown has quite reasonably decided to take from the middle class.

The details of the new education allowances, which remain scanty, will therefore be all-important if Labour's proposals are to make a truly convincing case. Nevertheless, this scheme seems to represent the kind of sensible and imaginative redirection of existing resources that Labour claims will be its hallmark in Government. Mr Brown would do well to continue thinking along these lines.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Issues at the heart of Labour policy

From Labour's Chief Whip

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's six articles on Labour (April 13-19) have been challenging and interesting and will have genuinely helped your readers to a better understanding of new Labour. I do not think the headline in his final piece, "Blair will win — and fail", accurately sums up his own conclusion. Mr Kaletsky is saying that Labour is a good bet in every sense and there are many who agree with him.

Your leader today, "Looking-glass Labour", says that readers will be surprised to know how much policy has actually been made by the Labour Party, but then argues that Tony Blair is keeping his party, as well as the public, in the dark. You cannot have it both ways.

On the minimum wage you argue that we should posit its maximum level. That would destroy the whole point of our policy, which is to consult with all sides of industry when in government, when the economic circumstances are clear.

On tax you argue that silence on tax will lead to further charges of a hidden agenda. Such charges will be baseless. We have said that we have no plans to raise taxes and that if we have proposals they will be disclosed before the election.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD DEWAR,
Chief Whip, Labour Party,
House of Commons.
April 19.

From the Chairman of the BMA

Sir, I was very interested to read Anatole Kaletsky's comment that the Government's health experiment has failed either in restoring public confidence or in reducing costs ("Pensions made to measure", April 17).

That such a respected commentator should reach such a conclusion is in marked contrast with statements made by the Secretary of State for Health on the fifth anniversary of the NHS "reforms" that the changes have been accepted as a permanent part of the landscape. I believe that to his credit Mr Dorrell is now tacitly acknowledging there are problems and is beginning to address them. But the Government as a whole is still reluctant to acknowledge the extent of the impending crisis.

At the BMA we have no doubt that the "reforms" must be reformed because of the inherent flaws in the system introduced five years ago. It seems to me that there is widespread alarm in the NHS, both among patients and among those who care for them, about the state of the service. Successive opinion polls support this view.

It surprises me that those commentating on successive by-election results sometimes ignore this fact.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. MACARA,
Chairman of Council,
British Medical Association,
Tavistock Square, WC1.
April 18.

From Mr J. W. ff. Young

Sir, For many of us the dreaded question is not "What will Labour do?" (Kaletsky's Labour, April 13) but "Who is going to pay the bill?"

Yours faithfully,
J. W. ff. YOUNG,
36 Jessel House,
Judd Street, WC1.
April 19.

Hosepipe charges

From Mr G. J. Heyes

Sir, The statutory provision for reducing water charges in Section 76(4) of the Water Industry Act 1991, referred to by Mr P. G. Scott in his letter of April 15, applies only in cases where a water undertaker makes charges for the use of a hosepipe or similar apparatus and a hosepipe or sprinkler ban restricts non-domestic supplies for watering gardens or washing cars.

Many companies, such as this one, do not make separate charges for use of hosepipes or sprinkers, and in such situations no reduction or adjustments arise.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM J. HEYES
(Company Secretary and Solicitor),
Southern Water Services,
Southern House,
Yeoman Road,
Worthing, West Sussex.
April 17.

Macmillan and the 1963 succession

From Mr Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, In my judgment, Lord Home succeeded to the premiership in 1963 not through a "plot" on the part of Harold Macmillan (report, April 15) but as the favoured candidate of the Conservative Party. The Queen, therefore, did not "block Butler"; nor did her decision to appoint Home "damage the Crown".

In June 1963, four months before Harold Macmillan's resignation, the executive of the 1922 Committee told Butler that he would not be the favourite for the succession. Butler's papers in Trinity College, Cambridge, confirm this message, which was reiterated by the chairman of the 1922 Committee, Major John Morrison, in July 1963. At the same time Major Morrison told Home that, as he could now disclaim his title, he might well be a candidate for the leadership.

Since Macmillan was unable to foist his first choice for the succession, Lord Hailsham, upon the Conservative Party it is highly unlikely that a plot to impose Lord Home would have succeeded had Home not been favoured by the party.

Although Macmillan could not formally advise the Queen whom to appoint as his successor the memorandum which he presented to her apparently showed that, taking into account the views of the Cabinet, the parliamentary party in both Houses and the party in the country, Lord Home was the first choice.

It is implausible to believe that those senior members of the party who had taken soundings would have allowed their views to be misrepresented by Macmillan. Iain Macleod, who resigned rather than serve under Home, admitted that the memorandum submitted by Macmillan was so conclusive that "it was unthinkable even to consider asking for a second opinion".

But in any case it was not for the Queen, by seeking such a second opinion, to appear to intervene in the internal affairs of the Conservative Party. If a preponderant element in the party wanted some candidate other than Home it was their responsibility to make their views known in unambiguous fashion. It was for the politicians, not for the Queen, to sort out the internal problems of the Conservative Party.

It is time, then, to scotch once and for all two myths — first, that Lord Home was imposed by Harold Macmillan on an unwilling Conservative Party, and second, that the Queen colluded in some way with Macmillan's plot.

The particular difficulty which occurred in 1963 will not, of course, occur again, since the Conservatives have used an electoral procedure to choose their leader since 1965. Even so, the 1963 crisis casts valuable light on how the Sovereign might carry out her responsibilities in the event of a hung Parliament.

Yours sincerely,
VERNON BOGDANOR
(Reader in Government),
Brasenose College,
Oxford.
April 15.

Duty of Israel to protect its citizens

From the Director of the Britain Israel Public Affairs Centre

Sir, Sir Anthony Parsons *et al* (letter, April 18) engage in a circular argument when they suggest that Israel's maintenance of a security zone in South Lebanon is the cause of Hezbollah's rocket attacks on Israel's northern towns. Israelis argue — with greater justification, I believe — that they are compelled to maintain a buffer in order to protect their civilian population.

The facts of the matter are simple and accessible: so far, the Lebanese central Government has proved unwilling or unable to deploy its army in the south and ensure security along its border with Israel. It has also conspicuously declined to disarm the military wing of Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy which is pledged to the destruction of the State of Israel.

Israel has repeatedly stated that it has no territorial claims on Lebanon and, indeed, established the security zone as a *cordon sanitaire* in response to years of cross-border incursions which posed a constant threat to its civilian population in the north.

There is an unambiguous responsibility on the Government of Lebanon to control the use of force that is launched from its territory against a neighbouring sovereign state.

In the absence of that, the Government of Israel has an unequivocal duty to take the steps it deems necessary to protect its civilian population from the violent acts of an apparently uncontrolled terrorist group which operates from across its border.

The tragic deaths of Lebanese civilians on Thursday underscore the urgent need to secure the Israeli-Lebanese border and prevent Hezbollah from cynically and cruelly using Lebanese civilians as human shields when firing their Katyusha rockets at Israeli civilians.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN DAVIS, Director,
Britain Israel Public Affairs Centre,
21-22 Great Sutton Street, EC1.
April 19.

Libraries at risk

From Mr Patrick M. Forman

Sir, Your correspondents who seek to save Great Smith Street library from closure (letter, April 17) may or may not know that when a similar fate hung over London's Belsize library in 1991 its readers sought a judicial review of Camden Council's decision to close it. They were granted leave for a hearing in the High Court, whereupon the council revoked its decision and the library remained open.

Cambridge's Mill Road library is one of four libraries recently closed by the county, following years of attrition of the kind described by your correspondents. This listed building has now been boarded up in its centenary year, despite the words "Free Library" built in brick into its handsome facade.

To assuage widespread protests by its users, the county and city authorities have been driven to suggest various milk-and-water community uses for the building. Friends of the library, with the precedent of Camden in mind, are nonetheless campaigning to reinstate its original purpose in full.

As your correspondents aptly demonstrate, libraries can no longer safely be left in the hands of local authorities who show themselves blind to their cultural, social and educational value. Central Government must indeed now take a hand in preserving these foundations of a civilised society.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK FORMAN,
25 Devonshire Road, Cambridge.
April 18.

Steam heat

From Dr Malcolm McCoubrie

Sir, In your leading article of April 16, occasioned by the identification of Henry VIII's Turkish bath at Whitehall Palace, you rightly distinguish between the spiritual and sybaritic aspects of hot-water bathing. You might also have mentioned another: the supposed healing effects of dissolved inorganic salts.

A good number of Henry VIII's subjects thought it worth their while to visit Bath: one wonders if his advisers were aware of the growing popularity of the many London mineral springs and were persuaded by his physicians to place his Whitehall bath away from the springs.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM McCOUBRIE
St George's Hospital Medical School,
Department of Primary Care,
Tooting, SW17.
April 17.

Spirit and substance

From the Chaplain of Fitzwilliam College

Sir, Mr John Pearman suggests (letter, April 17) that "Most present-day youngsters are influenced more by spiritually-minded human beings engaged in the real world than by priests". For which epithet, pray, do priests not qualify?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LLOYD,
Chaplain,
Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.
April 17.

Opposition in Kenya

From Mr Kenneth Matiba

Sir, Sam Kiley's report, "Kenyan opposition self-destructs in violent clashes" (April 4), is riddled with gross inaccuracies. Biased reporting and unwarranted attacks against opposition politicians in the media are unfortunately all too common in Kenya, a country governed by an autocratic ruler who displays a flagrant disregard for freedom of the press. I would expect more reflective coverage from the UK press.

I would challenge Kiley's piece on two counts. Firstly, I do not support the expulsion of "whites and Asians" from Kenya. It is Daniel arap Moi, the President of Kenya, who has carried out a systematic policy of ethnic cleansing in our country through provoked tribal clashes and his divide-and-rule strategy. What I have done, and will continue to do, is to attack corruption at the highest levels in government and call for dishonest and corrupt foreigners to be expelled from Kenya.

Kiley also claims that I have developed "a penchant for ... outrageous statements". If it is outrageous to call for a national constitution conference to seek reforms which guarantee the independence of the judiciary, the press and Parliament and provide the necessary checks and balances on the power of the President, then yes, I am outrageous.

If it is outrageous to work for the establishment of a genuine multi-party democracy in Kenya, built on the support of the people, then yes, I am outrageous. If it is outrageous to want to see an uncensored and independent press in Kenya, in stark contrast to the biased and misinformed reporting that exists today, then yes, I am outrageous.

I will continue to make such "outrageous" statements until we see real political reform in Kenya founded on genuine participatory democracy.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH MATIBA
(Chairman, Forum for the
Restoration of Democracy-Asili),
PO Box 48647,
Nairobi, Kenya.
April 12.

Weekend Money letters, page 36

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Destruction of art — a legacy lost

From Mr Graham Chainey

Sir, Both Mr Smallwood and Dr Dunn (letters, April 16) attribute the destruction of English art, which they seek to minimise or justify, to the Reformation. However, in one important area at least, stained glass, the main "holocaust of destruction", occurred a century later.

Canterbury's glass was shattered in 1642 by a mob led by a fanatical parson who himself climbed the city ladder to smash windows with a pike. Most of the glass at Worcester was destroyed by the Earl of Essex's troops the same year. Most of the churches at Suffolk and Cambridgeshire were despoiled by the notorious iconoclast William Dowsing in 1642-44.

Peterborough's magnificent glass was destroyed by Puritan soldiers under Cromwell in 1643, including a famed sequence of windows in the cloister showing Old Testament scenes on one side, New Testament on another, the Church founders on a third, and all the Kings of England on the fourth. Cromwell himself, spotting a tiny crucifix overlooked in a high window, personally fetched a ladder and destroyed it.

In the same year, at Winchester, "those windows which they could not reach with their swords and muskets they brake to pieces by throwing at them the bones of kings, queens, bishops, confessors and saints" which they had disinterred; at Norwich Cathedral "Lord, what work was here! What clattering of glasses." The 15th-century windows of St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, were detonated in 1648.

The Renaissance windows of Henry VII's Chapel, Westminster, and the glass in the Hampton Court chapel were replaced by plain glass in 1644-45. Even at York in 1644 the Roundheads deliberately fired on the Minster so that cannonballs crashed through the windows and "bounced about from pillar to pillar"; while during the siege of Lichfield in 1646 "two thousand shot of great ordnance and fifteen hundred grenadoes" hit the cathedral, destroying the glass.

In this way perhaps the greatest legacy of English medieval art was largely consigned to oblivion, much of it wantonly, contrary to orders, and with the slenderest of ideological justification.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM CHAINEY,
35 The Albemarle,
Marine Parade, Brighton, Sussex.
April 16.

From Mr Neil Sydney

Sir, The mindless iconoclasts portrayed by Richard Cork in "The Resurrection" (Magazine, April 6) were not, I suggest, motivated by a desire to destroy art. Rather they saw it, correctly, as idolatry.

The people, common and noble, bowed down to and gave gifts to the statues that filled their churches. The reforming zeal of the iconoclasts was directed by the Bible, which states not only "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image" but more importantly "Thou shalt not bow down thyself before them, nor serve them". The Protestants remembered the Golden Calf, and the Lord's vengeance, and sought to do right by what they believed was God's Word.

In those days, statues were not made for the appreciation of art critics, but were part of the everyday lives which the reformers of the day regarded as superstitious.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL SYDNEY,
50 Hillside Gardens,
Barnet, Hertfordshire.
April 18.

Still on the rails

From the Director of Public Affairs, British Railways Board

Sir, The BR "double arrow" logo is not disappearing from stations and tickets as your report of April 15, "Rush for the BR logo now departing", suggests.

Ownership of the logo is to be transferred to the Secretary of State for Transport, who already uses it as a prescribed traffic sign. It is to be available under licence for use by all railway businesses.

Essentially it will be used to denote "railways" generally — for example, showing on maps as well as traffic signs where stations are.

The licence will be non-exclusive and royalty-free. At the same time, British Rail will be allowed to continue to use it as its corporate logo for at least five years.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. A. EVANS,
Director of Public Affairs,
British Railways Board,
Euston House,
24 Eversholt Street, NW1.
April 16.

Unexpected drawback

From Mr Richard Meacock

Sir, I really must protest that since South West Trains have been privatised my daily 9.40am to Richmond has been on time.

For 30 years this was eight minutes late: the result is many miss it.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD MEACOCK,
Ivy Cottage, Staines Road,
Wraysbury, Buckinghamshire.
April 18.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 19: The Duke of Edinburgh, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, this evening attended a Dinner held to honour those who fought in Bomber Command in 1939-45 at the Officers' Mess, Strike Command, Royal Air Force High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 19: The Prince Edward, Trustee and Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning attended a Golf Tournament in support of the Award at the Sun Pia Golf Club, Tokushima, and later presented the prizes.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 19: The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this morning visited Strathclyde Knitwear Limited, Ballot Road, Irvine, Ayrshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Ayr and Arran (Major Richard Henderson).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Ayr Racecourse to open "The Princess Royal Stand".

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 19: The Duke of Kent, President-in-Chief, the British Racing Drivers' Club, this morning visited Benetton Formula Limited, Whiteways Technical Centre, Enstone, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, this evening attended a dinner at the Officers' Mess, Strike Command, Royal Air Force High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Royal engagements

TODAY:

The Princess Royal, as Patron of *the Gloucestershire* Rugby Football Union, will attend the final of the county championship at Twickenham at 12.40.

The Duchess of Kent will attend the Yehudi Menuhin 80th birthday concert at the Albert Hall at 6.55.

TOMORROW:

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the National Playing Fields Association, will attend a charity cricket match at Wormsley, High Wycombe, at noon.

The Princess Royal, as President of BAFTA, will attend the BAFTA awards at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, at 5.15 and will attend a dinner at Grosvenor House afterwards.

The Duke of Kent, as president, will take the salute at the The Queen's Scout parade at Windsor Castle at 1.55.

Eltham College

The summer term commences on April 22 and ends on July 12. The Eltham College Community Orchestra and Choral Society concert will take place on April 25 at 7.30pm in the Blackheath Concert Halls. The new Eric Liddell Sports Centre will be opened by Mr Sebastian Coe on June 26, at 4.30pm, and the Old Elthamians Summer Reunion is to be held on July 6. Mr John Monks will be Guest of Honour at Speech *Day on July 9.*

Appointments

Mrs Caroline Jane Lloyd to be a full-time Immigration Adjudicator, designated a special adjudicator.

Mr Henry Hodge to be a member of the Legal Aid Board for three years from May 1. Mr Hodge will serve as deputy chairman.

Dinner

Old Ipswichian Club
Mr I.G. Galbraith, Headmaster of Ipswich School, was the principal guest at the London dinner of the Old Ipswichian Club held last night at the East India, Devonshire, Sports and Public Schools Club. Mr N.S. Cawthorn, president of the OI Club, was in the chair. Mr Nils Blythe also spoke.

Service dinner

Royal Engineers (Transportation)
Lieutenant-Colonel E.P. Basley presided at the 65th reunion of the Royal Engineers (Transportation) Officers' Dinner Club held last night at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

University news

Oxford
Prize in Law Moderations
Maxwell Prize for the best overall *performance: Benjamin J. Parker.* St Hugh's College
Slaughter & May Prize for the best performance in individual subjects:
Roman Law: Benjamin J. Parker, St Hugh's College; Criminal Law: Susannah M. Cogman, Keble College; Constitutional Law: Jonathan D. Parker, St Hugh's College; Introduction to Law: David P. Manknell, University College.

Latest wills

Ruth Kathrina **Ericson**, of London NW3, left estate valued at £777,561 net.
She left bequests of effects, and the residue to The Uniting Church in Australia Frontier Services, Sydney.

Other estates include, net before tax:

Mr Alan Hugh George **Murley**, of Cambridge £609,886

Luncheons

Royal Society of St George
Sir Colin Cole was the guest speaker at a patronal celebration luncheon of the Sussex branch of the Royal Society of St George held yesterday at Lancing College. Squadron Leader Jack Dixon presided.

Royal Aeronautical Society
Sir Donald Spiers, President of the Royal Aeronautical Society, was the host at a presidential luncheon held yesterday at 4 Hamilton Place. Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, was among those present.

Australian British Chamber of Commerce (UK)
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Alderman and Sheriff Sir Peter Levene, was present at a luncheon of the Australian British Chamber of Commerce (UK) held yesterday at the Mansion House. Sir Peter Gadsden, president, and Mr Michael Whalley, chairman, received the guests. Sir John Egan was the guest of honour and principal speaker. The Agent General for South Australia attended.

200 Club
Air Commodore J.R. Forsythe presided at a luncheon of the 200 Club held yesterday at the Merchant Centre, Shoe Lane, and presented the Leprechaun Trophy and a case of whiskey to Mr Norman Harris of the Rugby *Union Writers' Club. Mr Terry* O'Connor also spoke.

Service luncheons

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
Major-General Charles Ramsay, Colonel of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, presided at a luncheon of the Regimental Council held yesterday at 108 Princes Street, Edinburgh. Colonel Lord Bruntisfield, Mr Ranald Noel-Paton, Captain John Dawes, Colonel Simon Allen and Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Fellowes were among the guests.

Trucial Oman Scouts
The annual luncheon for Officers of the Trucial Oman Levies, Trucial Oman Scouts, and the Union Defence Force was held yesterday at the Army and Navy Club.

Weekend birthdays

The Queen celebrates her 70th birthday tomorrow.

TODAY: Viscount Allenby, 65; Mr Alan Beith, MP, 53; Professor D.W. Bowett, QC, former President, Queens' College, Cambridge, 69; Mr Ray Brooks, actor, 57; Sir Geoffrey Chipperfield, civil servant, 63; the Right Rev F.C. Darwent, former Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, 69; Mr Richard de Lange, chairman and managing director, Philips Electronics UK, 51; Major-General Sir Charles Dunphie, 94; the Earl of Erroll, 48; Mr Sebastian Faulks, author, 43; Professor Francis Fish, former Dean, School of Pharmacy, London University, 72; Mr Graeme Fowler, cricketer, 39; Sir Arnold France, former chairman, Board of Inland Revenue, 85; Mr John Eliot Gardiner, conductor, 53; Mr Mauricio Gugelmin, racing driver, 33; Mr Jerry Hayes, MP, 43; Mr Giles Henderson, senior partner, Slaughter and May, 54; Mr Andrew Jaspan, former Editor, *The Observer*, 44; Sir Antony Jay, scriptwriter and producer, 66; Sir Eddie Kulukundis, theatrical producer, 64; Miss Jessica Lange, actress, 47; Mr Cy Laurie, jazz clarinettist, 70; Mr Leslie Phillips, actor, 72; Mr Eric Pickles, MP, 44; Sir John Quicke, agriculturist, 74; Mr R.D.W. Rhodes, Headmaster, Rossall School, Lancashire, 54; Mr Hugh Roberts, Director of the Royal Collection, 48; Mr Christopher Robinson, organist, 60; Mr R.J. Smith, former chairman, Trimoco, 57; Miss Jean Southworth, QC, 70; Mr Gerald Steinberg, MP, 51; Mr Luther Vandross, singer, 45; Air Marshal Sir Richard Wakeford, 74; Mr Henry Wrong, former director, Barbican Centre, 66.

TOMORROW: Mrs Angela Barrett, tennis champion, 64; Professor Gerald Benney, goldsmith and silversmith, 66; Mr I.W. Bruce, director-general, RNIB, 51; Sir George Burton, former chairman, Fisons, 80; Mr Laurence Ellis, former Rector, Edinburgh Academy, 64; Miss Cheryl Gillan, MP, 44; Mr Robin Gourlay, chairman, Anglian Water, 57; Mr J.M. Greenwood, former senior partner, Nabarro Nathanson, 61; Air Marshal Sir John Hunter-Tod 79; Sir Robin Ibbs, chairman, Lloyds TSB Group, 70; Mr John McCabe, former director, *London College of Music*, 57; Dr Halfdan Mahler, former secretary-general, IPPF, 73; Mr Iain Mills, MP, 56; Sir Geoffrey Palmer, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 54; Mr Ben Patterson, former MEP, 57; Mr Anthony Quinn, actor, 81; Sir Alexander Stone, lawyer and banker, 89; Major-General Sir John Swinton, Lord-Lieutenant of Berwickshire, 71; the Earl of Verulam, 45.

John Mortimer, QC, barrister, playwright and author, is 73 tomorrow; *Nicholas Lyndhurst, actor, is 35 today*

Anniversaries

TODAY

BIRTHS: Napoleon III, French Emperor 1852-70, Paris, 1808; Adolf Hitler, German dictator, Branau am Inn, Austria, 1889; Harold Lloyd, film comedian, Burchard, Nebraska, 1893; Joan Mirò, abstract painter, Barcelona, 1893.

DEATHS: Eliza Burton, the "Maid of Kent", executed, London, 1534; Giovanni Antonio Canaletto, painter, Venice, 1768; Pontiac, chief of the Ottawa Indians, Cahokia, Illinois, 1769; Arthur Young, agriculturist, London, 1820; Bram Stoker, writer, author of *Dracula*, London, 1912; Archibald Macleish, poet and dramatist, 1982.

Oliver Cromwell dissolved the Long Parliament, 1653.

The first motor race was held in Paris with Georges Bouton as the only entrant, 1887.

Soviet troops entered Berlin, 1945.

TOMORROW

BIRTHS: Jan van Riebeck, naval surgeon, founder of Cape Town, Culemborg, The Netherlands, 1619; John Law, economist, Edinburgh, 1671; Friedrich Froebel, educator, Overweissbach, Germany, 1782; Reginald Heber, bishop and hymn writer, Malpas, Cheshire, 1783; Charlotte Brontë, writer, Thornton, Yorkshire, 1816; Hippolyte Adolphe Taine, philosopher and historian, Vouziers, France, 1828; Sir Herbert Barker, manipulative surgeon, Southport, 1869; Henry *de Montherlant, novelist and* dramatist, Paris, 1896.

DEATHS: St Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury 1093-1109, Canterbury, 1109; Peter Abelard, theologian, Chalon-sur-Saône, 1142; King Henry VII, reigned 1485-1509, Richmond, Surrey, 1509; Jean Racine, dramatist, Paris, 1699; Prince Eugene of Savoy, soldier and statesman, Vienna, 1736; Mark Twain, writer, Redding, Connecticut, 1910; Samuel R. Crockett, novelist, Avignon, 1914; Manfred von Richthofen (the Red Baron), German air fighter, shot down, 1918; Eleanora Duse, actress, Pittsburgh, 1924; Robert Bridges, Poet Laureate 1913-30, Chilswell, Kent, 1930; John Maynard Keynes, Baron Keynes, economist, Tilton, Somerset, 1946; Sir Stafford Cripps, statesman, Zurich, 1952; Sir Edward Appleton, physicist, Nobel laureate 1947, Edinburgh, 1965, François Duvalier, President of Haiti *1957-71, Port-au-Prince, 1971.*

The Texans defeated Mexico at the Battle of San Jacinto, 1836.

The City of Rome was founded by Romulus, 753 BC.

Brasilia was inaugurated as the new capital of Brazil, 1960.

Chinese students poured into Peking's Tiananmen Square, ignoring government warnings of severe punishment, 1989.

Marriages

Mr A. Atkins
and Señorita M. Vargas Lopez
The marriage took place on March 30, in Cuenca, Ecuador, of Adam, son of the Revd and Mrs Timothy Atkins, and Marcia, daughter of Señora Luisa Coronel de Vargas and the late Señor Cesar Vargas Lopez.

Mr M.E. Lowenthal
and Mrs G.C. Rhodes
The marriage took place on April 12, in London, between Mr Mark Lowenthal and Mrs Georgina Rhodes.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev David Bartholomew, Curate, St Peter's, Petersfield (Portsmouth): to be Rector, Etton w Helpston and Maxey (Peterborough).

The Rev David Flewker, Team Vicar, Whitstable St Alphege, Whitstable Team Ministry: to be Vicar, Bethersden w High Halden (Canterbury).

The Rev Ricky Panter, Vicar, St Andrew, Clubmoor: to be Priest-in-charge, Saints John and James, Litherland (Liverpool).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A. Ashdown
and Miss L.K. Ewerby
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of the late Mr Michael Ashdown and of Mrs Ursula Ashdown, of Truro, Cornwall, and Lotta, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Hans Ewerby, of Stockholm, Sweden.

Mr P.W. Bagley
and Miss K.E. Southall
The engagement is announced between William, youngest son of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs A.F. Bagley, of Wivelsfield Green, East Sussex, and Katie, youngest daughter of the late Mr Michael G. Southall and of Mrs Peter Brain, of Broadway, Worcestershire.

Mr H. Byrne
and Miss P. Whiting
The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Mr and Mrs John Byrne, of Dublin, Ireland, and Pamela, youngest daughter of the Rev Antony Whiting and the late Mrs Whiting, of Cork, Ireland.

Mr A.L. Gibb
and Miss S.M. Barnett
The engagement is announced between Antony, son of the late Mr W.B. Gibb, DFC, and of Mrs Mary Gibb, of St Martin, Jersey, and Sasha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Barnett, of East Haddon, Northamptonshire.

Mr M.H. Gordon
and Miss H.J. Champion
The engagement is announced between Milton, son of the late Mr and Mrs James Gordon, of Santoy, Jamaica, and Hilary, daughter of the late William Roy Champion and of Mrs Freda Champion, of Boldre, Hampshire.

Mr M.A. Gray-Spencer
and Miss R.E.M. Capel
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Gray-Spencer, of Sydney, Australia, and Rosalind, younger daughter of the late Captain William Capel and of Mrs Capel, of Brook Green, London, formerly of Lanteglos-by-Fowey, Cornwall.

Mr J. Harper
and Miss J.A. Davies
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs T. Harper, of Nova Scotia, and Jemima Ann, daughter of Mrs A. Davies, of Plas Clough, Denbigh.

Mr J.C. Loveland
and Miss S.J. Klewe
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs C. Loveland, of Ringwood, Hampshire, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C. Klewe, of Highfield, Southampton.

Count A.P. Ignatieff
and Miss M. Bell
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Count and Countess Paul Ignatieff, of Monaive, Dumfriesshire, and Melanie, daughter of Mr Derek Bell, MBE, of Pagham, Sussex, and Mrs Pamela Bell, of Capetown, South Africa.

Mr J. Østom
and Miss M.E. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Jøran, son of Mr and Mrs Bjørn Østom, of Oslo, Norway, and Michelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs Maurice Taylor, of Telford, Shropshire.

Mr S.R.M. Philips
and Miss M.R. Kish
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs R.P.M. Philips, of Knockholt, Kent, and Marion, younger daughter of Mrs J.E. Kish, of Littleport, Cambridgeshire, and the late Mr G. Kish, of Hungary.

Mr J.T.de V. Rush
and Miss A.C. Parker
The engagement is announced between Toby, only son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Rush, of Barnham, Suffolk, and Alison, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Parker, of St Mawes, Cornwall.

Mr T.J. Salkield
and Miss C.M. Smailes
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Salkield, of Royston, Hertfordshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs I.C. Smailes, of Ashford, Middlesex.

Mr G.B. Usher
and Dr R.M.S. Thomson
The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Professor and Mrs Michael Usher, of York, and Rachel, daughter of Dr and Mrs Kenneth Thomson, of York.

Mr R.J. Venner
and Miss C.L. Norman
The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Mr J.M. Venner, of Palma, Majorca, and Mrs S.M. Venner, of Rowington, Warwickshire, and Clare, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A.H. Norman, of Eccleston, Chester.

Mr E.A. Woodall
and Miss A.J. Pritchett
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Woodall, of Great Hormead, Hertfordshire, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Desmond Pritchett, of Blackheath, London, SE3.

Church services tomorrow

Second Sunday after Easter

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 Choral C, Darke in F, Surely is the true light (Harris): 3.30 Choral E, Stanford in C, And *I saw a new heaven* (Bainton)

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP: 9.15 HC: 11 Choral Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Christus vincit, Christ our Paschal Lamb (Sheppard), Ven J Barton: 4 Choral E, Second Service (Moore), Christ died for us (Buck).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green: 7.40 M: 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch, Confitemini Domino (Constantini), Mass in E flat (Bairstow), Ave verum corpus (Mozart). The Dean: 3.30 Choral E, Mass in E flat (Bairstow), Christo resurgenti (Couperin), Canon J Simpson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M, Right Rev Lord Runcie: 11 S Euch, Ridout *in F, Teach us we pray* (Ridout), Rev Dr M Chandler: 3.15 E, Ridout in B *flat,* Vertue (Ridout): 5 Scouts, Rev M Morris.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Archdeacon D Turnbull; 3 E, Walmisley in D minor, O sing joyfully (Batten).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC: 9.30 Euch, Rev J Jones; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Sancti Diminici (Rubbra), Canon B Thompson; 3.20 St George's Day; 6 Choral E & Licensing of Anglia University Chaplain, Watson in E, My shepherd is the living Lord (Tomkins).

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M, Te Deum (Stanford in B flat), Jubilate (Britten), The Archdeacon: 11 S Euch, *Stanford in F, Heilig ist der Herr* (Schubert), Rev K Hobbs: 2 Scouts' & Guides', St George's Tide: 3.30 E, Purcell in G minor, Thou wilt keep him (Redman).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion: 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Haydn), Up up my heart (Bach), Canon M Wright; 3 St George's Day: 5.30 E, Up up my heart (Bach), Blair in B minor, Hallelujah Chorus (Handel).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Hodgson: 10 M, Te Deum in A flat (Harris), Jubilate Deo (tone v), Haec dies, Canon M Perry; 11.15 HC, Mass in four parts (Tallis), Credo orbis factor, Canon R Coppin: 3.30 E, Magnificat septimi toni (Victoria), Nunc dimittis (Palestrina), Christ our Paschal Lamb.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley), The Dean: 2 Scout Council, St George's Tide: 3.45 E, Bullock in D, Antiphon (Britten).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev Sir J Alleyne: 9.45 Euch, Missa III (Hassler), Jesu dulcis memoria (Dering), Canon M Wilson: 11.15 M, Jubilate in B flat (Stanford), Sing a song of joy (Harris), Rev J Clark: 3 St George's Day & Parade: 6.30 E, Stanford in B flat, How lovely is thy dwelling place (Brahms), Rev C Matthews.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 11.45 HC: 10.30 Choral M, Jubilate in C (Britten), Te Deum in B flat (Stanford), Zadok the Priest (Handel), The Provost; 2.30 St George's Day, Rev C Bradshaw: 4 Choral E, Ireland in C, Love is come again (Paterson), The Treasurer.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Cantate Domino (Pitoni), Salvator mundi (Palestrina), The Dean: 3.30 E, Second Service (Gibbons), Lord how long wilt thou be angry (Purcell).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8, 12.30 HC: 9.30 S Euch, Darke in E, The Lord is my shepherd (Requiem), The Subdean: 11.15 M, Te Deum & Benedictus in G (Sumsion), The King of love (Bairstow), Rev E Noreus: 2 St George's Day: 3.45 E, Watson in E, Evening hymn (Gardiner).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC: 10.30 Euch, Canon N Vincent: 3 Choral E, The Dean: 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L: 8, 12.15 Holy Euch; 9 Parish Euch, The Dean; 11 S Euch, Leighton in D, Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Worsely), Rev N Court: 3.30 Choral E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Flocks in pastures green abiding (Cantana 208): 6.30 E & Sermon, Mr A Steele.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Service in C (Ireland), Christ rising again from the dead (Tomkins), Canon J Artherton: 6.30 E, Christ rising (Tye), Canon J Artherton.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC, The Provost; 9.30 S Euch, Mozart in C *KV258, Benedictus (Mozart), The Provost;* 6 Choral E, Collegium Regale (Howells), My *shepherd is the living Lord (Tomkins).*

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch: 10.30 S Euch, Robert Ashfield in C, Sicut cervus (Palestrina): 6.30 E, Fifth Service (Tomkins), My shepherd is the living Lord (Tomkins), A Fantasy (Tomkins).

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M, Boyce in C: 10.30 Euch, Missa Sancti Petri (Leighton), Canon T Roper: 3.30 E, Purcell in G minor, In exitu Israel (Wesley).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Durston: 10 Euch, Shephard Mass, Jesu dulcis memoria (Shephard), Rev A Philp: 11.30 Healing & Laying on of hands: 3 E, *Dyson in D, Beati quorum via (Stanford).*

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: *9.45 MP:* 10.30 S Euch, Rev S Pedley: 3 St George's Day Parade & Service: 6.30 Festal E & Sermon, The Provost.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, The Provost: 3 E, Rev H Cunliffe.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C, Britten in C, Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (Stanford), The Provost: 3.15 Scout Service: 5.45 Stanford in A, Blessed City (Bairstow).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M, The Curate: 10 S Euch, This joyful Eastertide (Wood), Darke in F, Jesu the very thought (Bairstow), Canon N Pocock: 6 E, Stanford in C, O God thou art my God (Purcell), The Librarian.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev A Jennings; 9.15 Parish C, The Provost: 11 Solemn Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Jubilate, Collegium Regale (Howells), Now the green blade riseth (French Traditional), Rev A Jennings; 6.30 E, Gray in F minor, Sing we merrily (Batten), Canon D Baxter.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch, Stanford in C / F, O taste and see (Williams), Rev G Farran; 11.30 M Sumsion in G, Holroyd in D, Up up my heart with gladness (Bach): 3 E, Sumsion in G, How beautiful upon the mountains (Stainer), Rev J Parfitt: 5 St George's Day.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M, Westminster Service (Clucas), Hoec est dies (Handel), Canon D Hutt; 11.15 Euch, Gloria (Mass in three parts) (Byrd), Sanctus & Benedictus (Tyes), Agnus Dei (Power), Christ our Paschal Lamb (Sheppard), Rev B Fenton: 3 E Service for men's voices (Mundy), Christ rising again (Byrd), Rev U Monberg: 5.45 Recital; 6.30 E, Rev R Ballard.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 M, Jubilate in C (Britten), Lift up your heads (Jackson), The Archbishop of Uganda; 11.30 Euch, Abrams in F minor, Locus iste (Bruckner); 2 Scouts & Guides: 3.30 E, O taste and see (Williams), Abrams in D minor, Like as the hart (Howells), Very Rev D Edwards.

YORK MINSTER: 8, *8.45 HC: 10* S Euch, Darke in F, Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), Rt Rev D Lunn: 11.30 M, *Te Deum in G* (Williams), Jubilate in C (Britten): 2 Scouts St George's Day: 4 E, Murrill in E, Expectans excpectavi (Wood), Rev Dr E Norman.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Jackson in G, Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow), The Canon in Residence: 2.30 St George's Day service.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC: 8.45 M: 11 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Deus sempiterne (Plainsong), Regina coeli (Aichinger), Most Rev G Weman: 3.15 E, Collegium Sancti Johannis Cantabrigiense (Howells), Haec dies (Byrd), Rev J Halliburton: 5.15 Recital.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM: 10.20 MP: 11 HM, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), The Vicar; 6 Solemn E & B, The Short Service (Gibbons), Rev I Davies.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion: 11 Rev J Cook: 6.30 Communion Service, Rev R Tice.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa brevis (Casali), This joyful Eastertide (Wood), Jesus junxit se (Palestrina).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC: 11 M, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley), Rev Dr P Elvy; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 Solemn Latin, Missa e sole (Halmos), Dextera Domini (Lassus), Ave verum corpus (Mozart).

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev J Peters; 11 Informal, Rev S Downham; 5, 7.30 Informal HC, Rev S Millar.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Spatzenmesse (Mozart), Regina caeli (Howells): 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass; 3.30 V&B, Surrexit pastor bonis (Lassus).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45, 11 Rev P Sutcliffe.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 10 Prayer & Meditation: 11 HC, Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 Rev Dr P Graves.

ST ALBAN'S CHURCH, Chatham, Kent: 9.45 MP: 10.30 S Mass & Sermon.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege: 7 Bach Vespers, Cantata 66 "Erfreut euch ihr Herzen", Christ ist erstanden (Walter), Rev P Schmiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch & Confirmation, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Haec dies (Arcadelt), Bishop M Wood; 6.30 E, Service for five voices (Weelkes), Surrexit pastor bonus (Lhéritier), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Jubilate (Ireland *in F*), Jackson in G, The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley): 6.30 Choral E, Magnificat/Nunc Dimittis (Murrill in E), Proclaim his triumph (Grier).

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Stetit Jesus (Regnart), Rev P Bishop.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Williams), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch (1662), John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, *Sussex Gardens*, W2: *8 Euch:* 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Gabrieli), Maria Magdalene (Dulot), Rev B Wilson: 6 Choral E, *Humfrey in F*, This is the Day (Anon).

ST JAMES'S, *Piccadilly*, W1: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Rev D Reeves: 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family C, Sonata No.2 (Mendelssohn), Rev J Meadway: 6.30 EP & Praise, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Head the voice and prayer (Tallis), Rev D Watson; 6.30 Choral E, Haec dies (Byrd), Rev D Watson.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC: 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Jackson in G, (Magdalen cases from sobs & sighs *(Stanford), Rev A Shaw.*

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Darke in F, Let all the world (Williams), Canon D Gray.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC, Rev W Ratchford; 9.45 Euch, The Vicar; 11.30 Visitors, Rev B Schunemann; 2.45 Chinese, Rev J Bennett; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening, Rev B Schunemann.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Vicar; 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Gelli; 6.30 E, Rev F Gelli.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch: 5.30 EP: 6 Taize Service.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Communion service in C (Ireland), My beloved spake (Hadley), Flocks in pastures green abiding (Bach), *Rev N Dawson.*

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Paschal Kyrie (Sheppard), Mass Cantate (Sheppard), Rise heart (Williams), Saraband for the morning of Easter (Howells), Fr A Chidwick.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 11 HC (Anthony Caesar), Christ is risen again (Brockless), I got me flowers (Williams), Rev M Barney; 6.30 E, Rev T Tiney.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD *VINCULA*, *HM Tower of London:* No Service - London Marathon Sunday.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP, Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Williams), Canon A Bowden.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC: 11 M, Dyson in D, Zadok the Priest (Handel); 3.30 E, We wait for thy loving kindness (McKie), Wesley in E, I was glad (Parry).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Grayston Ives), Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Williams), Grand Choeur in D (Guilmant), Rev D Dewey.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Te Deum, *Stanford in C*, I was glad *(Parry), The Chaplain*; 12.30 HC.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Te Deum Laudamus (Smart in F), The Lord is my shephrd (Schubert), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, When the Lord turned again (Batten), Now thank we all our God (Bach), Band of the Life Guards, Rev G Watts; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 10.30 Choral E, Dyson in F, Expectans expectavi, Rev C French.

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There is no question of our having sufficient power in ourselves; we cannot claim anything as our own. The power we have comes from God.
2 Corinthians 3 : 5 (REB)

ANNIVERSARIES

SAUNDERS:LYONS - On 21st April 1995 at Oldway Mansions, Ian to Karen. On the occasion of our First Anniversary at The Imperial Hotel Torquay. With all my love.

BIRTHS

ABBOTT - On April 18th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Fiona (née Giddings) and Mark, a daughter, Sophie Helen, a sister for Jamie.

CRAWSHAY-WILLIAMS - On April 18th, to Melissa (née Church) and Mark, a daughter, Felicity Jane, a sister for Serena.

DEL MAR - On 12th April, to Jonathan and Annabel (Gallop), a son, Maxim Teh.

FRY - On April 16th, to Rosemary (née Trefusis) and David, a daughter, Georgina Sarah, a sister to Emma and Edward.

GREEN - On 11th April in Edinburgh, to Maryla and Edward, a son, Frederick Joseph Lambert (Freddie).

HARE - On 11th April 1996 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Karen and John, a daughter, Alice Elizabeth, a sister to Kate and Lucy.

BIRTHS

HARVEY - On 17th April 1996, to Neil and Bonnie (née Glenister), a son, Peter James.

KIRBY - On 4th April 1996, to Jane (née Allison) and Graham, a son, Hugo James.

McNEILE - *On April 4th*, to Candida (née Otto-Jones) and James, a daughter, Iona Helen.

MUNOZ - On April 15th at The Portland Hospital Mark and Kathryn joyfully announce the birth of their son, Julian Connor.

PECK - On 18th April, to Lucy (née Selby) and Oliver, two daughters, Minnie and Kate.

QUINCEY - On 15th April at Queen Charlotte's, London, *to Antonia (née Giovanazzi)* and Simon, a son, Dominic Edwin, a brother for Alessandra. Deo Gratias.

RANDOLPH - On April 18th, at Uccle (Brussels) to Griet (née Descheemaeker) and Fergus, a son, Alexander Henri Beckham, a brother for Thomas.

ROWLAND - John, Juliet, Ben, Matthew, Luke and Freya are delighted to announce the arrival of Cassia Elizabeth on 17th *April 1996.*

TEMPERTON - On 8th April 1996, to Caroline 'Carrie' (née Day) and Andrew, a son, Samuel Alexander, a brother for Daisy.

DEATHS

BATE - On 18th April 1996, peacefully at the North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple, Margaret of North Molton, North Devon. Formerly of Datchet and Ghana. Dearly beloved wife of Ivor and a much loved sister and aunt. Funeral *Service* at North Molton Parish Church on Friday 26th April at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired may be sent to J. Westacott & Son, Funeral Directors, 2a, West Street, South Molton, North Devon which will be shared between North Molton Church and S.S.A.F.A.

BENNER - See Crepin.

BOLTON - Suddenly on Monday April 15th, George McClure (Mac), aged 63 years. Devoted husband of Sheila and loving father of Roger, John and Elizabeth. Funeral at Bradshaw Church, Bolton, at 11.30 am on Thursday April 25th. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to The Church Mission Society, 157 Waterloo Road, SE1 8UU. A Thanksgiving Service to be held in Horsham in *May.*

BUCKWELL - Basil Adam Buckwell D.S.O., M.C., on 18th April 1996, beloved husband of Betty, father of Anthony. Funeral private. *Family* flowers only please. Donations to The British Red Cross.

DEATHS

CREPIN - On April 16th 1996 Mary Patricia 'Pat' in her 87th year peacefully after a long illness, widow of Paul Benner and Roy Crepin, dearly loved mother of Deirdre and the late Michael Paul Benner G.C. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on April 25th at 12.30 pm. Enquiries to James and Thomas F/D, Mill Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3AL. Tel: (01932) 862009.

HILL - Thomas Raworth on Tuesday 16th April aged 69 years, loved husband of Christine and father of Paula, Annabel, Robin and the late Tracy. Funeral at St Andrew's Church, Hamble, on Thursday 25th April at 12 noon and Memorial Service at 5.30 pm St Mary's Church, East Molesey, Surrey (same day). Donations to RNLI. No flowers.

HUNT - Arthur Geoffrey suddenly on 18th April, dear husband of Doreen and father of David. Life Fellow of Fitzwilliam College and formerly Cambridge University Draftsman. Funeral at Cambridge Crematorium, New West Chapel, on Wednesday April 24th at 3.30 pm. Family *flowers only. Donations if* desired to Papworth Hospital NHS Trust (Homograft) c/o Harry Williams, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge, CB4 3EJ. At Geoffrey's request there will be no memorial service.

DEATHS

JOUGHIN - Suddenly, on Thursday 11th April 1996, Sir Michael Joughin aged 69 years, "Eldersile", Findhorn, Moray. Beloved husband of Anne, dear father of James and Gail, stepfather of Elaine and Linda, loving grandfather of Jason, Kerry and Kevin. The funeral service was conducted at the Church of Scotland Findhorn, followed by a family cremation service at Inverness Crematorium. Sir Michael's ashes were later scattered in the waters of the Moray Firth. Donations to his memory can be made to R.N.L.I. per Robin Miller, Craigendaroch, Findhorn, Moray.

KEANE - Donald Edward Keane aged 63 years. Passed suddenly away on 29th March. *Former treasurer of Electrolux Limited,* Luton. Beloved husband of Mary and loving father of Gabriel, Catherine and Colman. Requiem Mass and funeral has taken place.

LUGEON - François Roger Lugeon, Hon. MBE, aged 85, on 29th March at La Tourelle in Lausanne, Switzerland, after a short illness. Devoted and much loved husband of Marie-Louise, father of Pierre, grandfather and great-grandfather.

MOHL - Count. On 17th April 1996, Waclaw aged 93 *years. Greatly* loved by his family and friends in England and Poland. Funeral 11 am at the Church of The Sacred Hearts, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, on Thursday 25th April.

DEATHS

PAINE - Robert, Architect. Died quietly at Fordwich on 18th April 1996. Cremation on 25th April at 1 o'clock at Barham Crematorium.

RICHARDS - On April 16th in York District Hospital peacefully after a short illness. Prue, very dearly loved and loving wife of Kenneth, beloved mother of Penny, Felicity, the late Daphne, Jeremy, Hilary and Rosemary and grandmother of Frances, Andrew, Senia, Alastair and Rory. Funeral Service on Monday April 29th in York Minster at 2 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations may be *made to Leukaemia Research* Fund.

RUSSELL - In Edinburgh on April 18th 1996, peacefully at The Royal Infirmary, Helen Dorothea Russell (née Baird) of Drumcluan, Feshiebridge. Beloved wife of Victor, much loved sister of Betty and Bob, loving mother of Madeline, Sheila and Sandy and the late Hugh and a friend of many. Thanksgiving and burial at Insh Church, Kincraig at 12 noon on Wednesday 24th April. "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me even though he died yet will he live" John 11:25.

DEATHS

SCOTT - John Hamilton died peacefully on April 13th aged 66 years. Much loved father and grandfather. Memorial Service to be held at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington Church Street, London at 3 pm Friday 17th May. Donations if desired to R.N.L.I. South West District, 6 King Square, Bristol.

STEVENS - On April 18th, Geoffrey Meadows late of Shrivenham, Oxon and Callington, Cornwall. Beloved husband of Eileen, loving father of Lesley, stepson Brian and son-in-law Jonathan and adored grandad of his grandchildren. For all his family and friends both here and in Australia, he was a wonderful man.

STRATTON - On Good Friday April 5th, 1996, Christine, in her 89th year. Beloved wife of the late John, devoted mother of Jennifer and Supergran to Adriano and Nicholas. Cremation private. Donations payable to NSPCC may be sent c/o Edward White & Son, 5 South Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1SY.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HUBBARD - The Memorial Service for John Hubbard will be held at All Saints Church, Putney Common, on Wednesday 8th May 1996 at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

GIDDY - Reginald, Cellist. In unfading memory of my beloved husband, who died in Geneva on 21 April 1994. Always in my heart and in my thoughts, and in the hearts of all who love and miss him. 'The greater the love, the greater the grief.' Helen.

SMITH - Yvonne. Our love as always. Stanley, Alan and Paula and family.

BIRTHDAYS

DOROTHY PAY - NAN. "Happy 80th Birthday" on 18th April with lots of love from, Trevor, Lucia and Christopher

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هكذا من الاصل

OBITUARIES

KALIM SIDDIQUI

Kalim Siddiqui, director of the Muslim Institute, died in Pretoria on April 18 aged 62. He was born in July 1933.

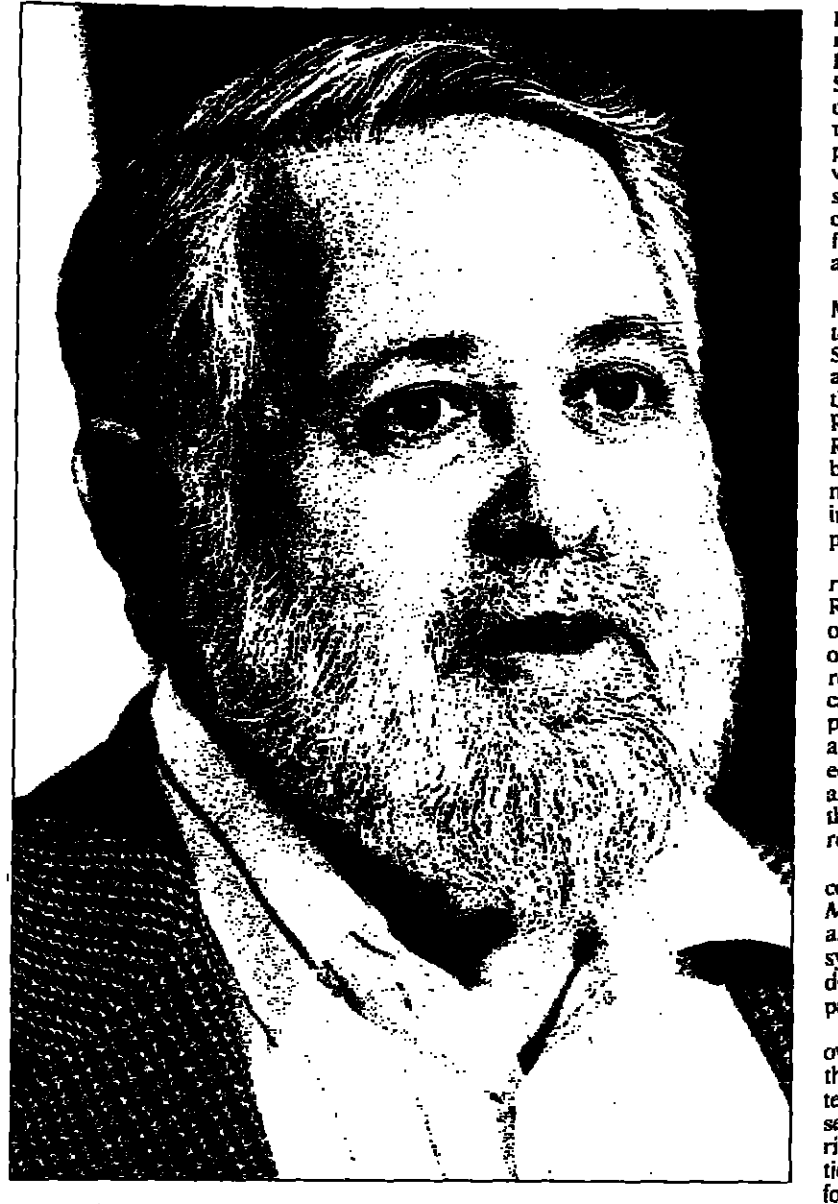
A RABBLE-ROUSING firebrand, who thrived on conflict, Kalim Siddiqui was one of Britain's most radical Islamic leaders. His condemnation of Western involvement in the Gulf, his public endorsements of the fatwa against Salman Rushdie, and his call for Islamic revolution aroused belligerent controversy. Although he had no spiritual authority, he styled himself as the spokesman of Britain's nearly 1.5 million Muslims, founding the London-based Muslim Institute and calling for the establishment of a non-territorial Islamic parliament.

Regarding the West as a sink of corruption, he denounced it in apocalyptic terms. At times he seemed almost to be daring the British Government to prosecute him, calculating, perhaps, that he would be seen as a martyr if convicted, and a hero if let free. His extreme rantings certainly made him something of a favourite with television producers. However, among the majority of more moderate Muslims, he was seen as a dangerous fanatic, an isolated voice within the Islamic community who had set back its interests with promotions of religious separatism.

Kalim Siddiqui's sub-continental origins may partly explain his aggressive defence of Islam. He was born near Hyderabad in southern India, but grew up in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, in northern India where his father was a junior police inspector and small landowner. Even as a schoolboy he was embroiled in religious conflict as, in the months before partition, Hindus and Muslims attacked each other in the classrooms. The seeds of his future fusion of faith and politics were sown as, at election time, he would help the old men and women of his neighbourhood along the dusty tracks to the polling booths.

After partition in 1947, the Hindu-Muslim conflict escalated murderously and the embittered Siddiqui family migrated to Pakistan and became refugees living in a two-room hovel in Karachi. The young Kalim failed to complete his studies. He sold vegetables and slept rough on the streets before joining the Pakistani Army as an officer cadet. But, already a Muslim militant, he was dismissed, he claimed, for insisting on washing himself in the lavatory with water in the Muslim style, instead of using paper as a colonial would. He became active in student politics, editing a Karachi broadsheet *The Leader*, run by an Islamist group, and blazoned with such headlines as "Can Humanity Disown God?"

In 1954 Siddiqui was sent to London to learn journalism, and, after working on a number of local papers, he joined *The Guardian* — a paper whose liberal vision he always claimed to cherish — as a sub-editor. While working night shifts, he pursued his studies part-time, starting with O levels and culminating with a PhD from University College London. His thesis followed Max Weber's line that conflict has a positive role in society.



Siddiqui took this sense of conflict very much to heart, becoming increasingly convinced that Western society fostered a deep-seated animus against Muslim culture, dating back to the Crusades. He was prominent among Britain's earliest Islamic activists. During the Suez crisis he was to be found demonstrating in Trafalgar Square, and at the time of the Algerian War he went to Paris to march in protest up the Champs-Elysées.

In 1972 he turned his back on journalism to found the Muslim Institute, based in Bloomsbury and funded by subscriptions from members and donations from Muslims all over the world. Its aim, he explained, was to counteract the way in which Western political thought had penetrated that of Islam by working to disengage the two at an intellectual level. He himself became director.

For some years he lived quietly, like many a self-made member of the lower-middle classes, in a semi-detached house in Slough with crazy-paved front garden and a BMW parked outside. "If there was a competition to find the most assimilated Muslim in Great Britain I would win first prize," he once declared, with a characteristic high-pitched giggle. His donnish half-moon spectacles and avuncular cardigan-clad figure seemed to confirm this. But from a photograph in his book-lined study the Ayatollah Khomeini glared down sternly, contrasting oddly with the suburban scene.

The 1979 Iranian revolution was the turning point in Siddiqui's life. It established for the first time the sort of state that his theories advocated — a newly self-confident version of Islam, contemptuous of everything Western. Siddiqui became a radical Muslim fundamentalist calling for a special relationship between British Muslims and Iran. As a frequent visitor to Tehran, he became a highly regarded guest of the Government.

In 1989 Siddiqui found notoriety in Britain with his endorsement of Khomeini's fatwa against Salman Rushdie. Indeed, evidence suggested, that Siddiqui's opinions about Rushdie confirmed Khomeini in his belief that the author deserved to die. He campaigned for the total and unconditional withdrawal of *Satanic Verses* from sale, suggesting that any prior proceeds from the novel should be given to families of victims who died protesting against it in Pakistan and India.

In October 1989, at a meeting in Manchester, he requested all present to raise their hands in agreement that Salman Rushdie should be "put away". The meeting ended with more than 300 Muslims chanting "death to Rushdie". But Siddiqui — much to Rushdie's distress — narrowly escaped being prosecuted for incitement to murder on the ground that there was insufficient evidence to justify criminal prosecution.

Although he obdurately persisted in reissuing the fatwa, intent on keeping Rushdie "in a rabbit hole" for the rest of his life — and threatening that any others tempted to go down the same road would suffer the same fate — his casuistry sheltered him from formal prosecution. Even this year he went against the softer line recently indicated by Iran, declaring — to the annoyance of President Rafsanjani — that the death edict against Rushdie remained in force.

In 1990 Siddiqui aroused further controversy with the issue of his *Muslim Manifesto*, excoriating every aspect of British life from the legal system to the morality of what he described as a "post-Christian, largely pagan, secular society."

This manifesto set out Siddiqui's own uncompromising views on everything from the need for a non-territorial Muslim parliament, to separate schools, dress and inheritance rights. He even suggested the imposition of a tax on all Muslims to be used for campaigns against those who did not conform with Islamic teachings. "Let us make it quite clear," he said on January 4, 1992, as 155 Muslim delegates assembled for the first time at Kensington Town Hall, "Muslims will oppose, and if necessary defy, any policy or legislation which we regard as inimical to our interests".

Siddiqui refused ever to compromise and continued in his work, fundraising in South Africa, Iran and the Gulf States, notwithstanding his two heart attacks and heart bypass operation. In a press interview he expressed enthusiasm for Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, saying that he hoped the Iraqis would "smash on to Riyadh" — and this was despite the fact that, as one of Iran's leading apologists, he was not inclined to be well disposed towards Iraq. Earlier this year he wrote a letter to *The Times* criticising the Government for its plans to deport Muhammad al-Masari.

Kalim Siddiqui is survived by his wife, Suraiya, whom he married in 1960, and by a son and a daughter. Another son died of a brain haemorrhage at the age of four.

CANON PETER GILLINGHAM

Canon Peter Gillingham, LVO, Chaplain to the Queen, 1952-84, died on April 4 aged 81. He was born on May 3, 1914.

BY REASON of his stature and good looks, Peter Gillingham always commanded respect and attention. This was just as well, since many of his views and ideas could have been regarded as bordering on the over-risky. During one of the most settled periods in an active and varied ministry — from 1960 to 1977 when he was vicar of Horsham — he was often at odds with the diocesan authorities.

Sensitive to the wishes of his congregation, he was ready to introduce not only variations in the conventional church services of the day but also to start entirely new ones — such as the Easter Midnight Mass and the Parish Choral Eucharist at 9.15am, which is now at St Mary's, Horsham, the main Sunday service.

Other monuments to his work in the town include the resiting and building of the church school, the foundation stone of which was laid by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 1965, the restoration and refurbishing of the memorial chapel in the parish church, and the acquisition of a disused chapel, barn and outbuildings and extensive paved area for parking (following the closure of a local preparatory school) to form a very large church centre. Such was the scale of his pragmatic innovation and renewal that the local phrase was coined: "The vicar's inspiration becomes the wardens' perspiration."

Peter Llewellyn Gillingham was born in Birmingham, one of three children in the family of the redoubtable Canon F. H. Gillingham of Essex county cricket fame. Ill-health, in the form of rheumatic fever, caused his schooling at Marlborough to be abandoned, but he recovered sufficiently to gain entrance to Oriel College, Oxford, where he read PPE, staying in Oxford to prepare for ordination at Wycliffe Hall.

He served his title at Tonbridge, going on from there to a second curacy at St George's, Oakdale, Poole, just before the outbreak of the Second World War. He then became a most distinguished naval chaplain. Dispatched to the famous "O" Class destroyer flotilla he found himself on the "Murmansk run" of convoys to Russia, perhaps the most demanding of all the theatres of war in terms of engagement with the elements and the enemy.

His sympathy with, and recognition of, the human stresses borne by the various crews found expression in his request to the flotilla commander on Good Friday 1944, just before his convoy was due to return from Russia, that permission be granted for the ships' companies to take part in a religious service prior to departure. The captain of *HMS Onslow* thought for a moment and then replied: "Give me half an hour, padre, and we'll surprise both God and the Russians." Under the bemused gaze of NKVD security men, Gillingham then led the service and preached on Russian soil.

On demobilisation, a spell as chaplain to Blundell's School, Tiverton, preceded six years spent as chaplain at the Royal Chapel in Windsor Great Park. His time there covered the death of King George VI, with the consequent period of bereavement for the Royal Family, during which his presence and support were invaluable. He once delivered a notable series of sermons in the Chapel Royal on the significance of the emblems used in the Coronation. For his services to the Royal Household he was appointed MVO in 1955, later transferred to LVO.

At the direct request of Cuthbert Bardsley, then Bishop of Croydon, Peter Gillingham was in 1955 appointed vicar of St Mildred's, Addiscombe, moving from there to Horsham in 1960. His long career continued with the chaplaincy at Sherborne School for Girls (where his wife was appointed a housemistress). There were in addition spells in South Africa and South Carolina in the United States before his final retirement to Aldeburgh in Suffolk. Here he could indulge in his favourite and lifelong passion for sailing.

Having taken part in the Fastnet race and "crewed" with friends in ocean-going yachts, he was able to be his own captain aboard the cabin-cruiser *Enid Mary* in which he explored at length the navigable waters of East Anglia and instructed his "amateur" crew in the complexities of boat control. It was an environment in which his outstanding qualities of leadership and humour could be given full expression. With the additional lure of the golf course and the local fund of classical and choral musical activity, in which he took a full part, life remained energetic and busy almost to the end of his life.

He married Diana (née Hood) in 1947. She survives him with their four children, the eldest of whom is rector of St Clement's, Oxford.

JOY NEWTON

Joy Newton, founder member of the Royal Ballet and later its ballet mistress, died on April 4 aged 82. She was born in May 1913.

JOY NEWTON'S most famous dancing role was the cameo part of the Ballad Singer in *The Rake's Progress*, which Ninette de Valois had created for her at the ballet's premiere in 1935. Made up as a raddled old woman (she was only 22 at the time), Newton came on during the scene where the Rake enjoys himself among "ladies of the town", and entertained the party with a drunken and disreputable song. Although her voice was represented by the orchestra, she was required to mouth suggestive words, reputedly written by Constant Lambert. Lip-reading balletomanes today still sing along under their breath, the verses having been passed along between enthusiasts down the years.

De Valois' brother, the photographer Gordon Anthony, described Newton's performance as "a salaciously comic vignette of the sleazy and genial street singer". Besides this one moment, Newton's stage career was not especially glamorous: hers was the sort of reliable but secondary talent which is cast as the queen in *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty* and as the princess or as the heroine's mother in *Giselle*. But she was perspicacious, taking in all that happened around her, and she was sensible.

Also, she endured; as a pupil of Ninette de Valois' grandly named Academy of Choreographic Art from about 1927, she was one of the six young women who became the initial members of the opera ballet at the Old Vic theatre two years later, making her company debut in a ballet called *The Picnic* to music by Vaughan Williams. Born in Wimbledon, she had already been a child dancer as Will-o'-the-Wisp in *Where the Rainbow Ends* when she auditioned for the school. While still a pupil, she took part in works which de Valois presented at the Festival Theatre, Cambridge, and the Abbey Theatre, Dublin.

By the time war broke out, Newton was the only dancer from the original team still with the company. And when de Valois needed an assistant ballet mistress in 1940, Newton's faithful service won her the appointment, and promotion to ballet mistress two years later.

Scarcely had she taken up her new responsibilities when in May 1940 the company was sent on a goodwill tour to The Netherlands, then still neutral. After British wartime privations, the dancers were delighted by the bright lights and ample food on their opening night in The Hague. But subsequent performances took them to towns close to the German border, and after only four days of the planned ten performances the Germans invaded. There followed a worrying two days confined to their hotel amid the sound of bombs and gunfire, and another 48 hours sheltered in the Dutch countryside before embarking, amid hundreds of other refugees, in the hold of a cargo boat at Ijmuiden for the 15-hour journey to Harwich.

Joy Newton was one of seven group leaders appointed by de Valois to take a roll call of their own detachment at every halt and departure, to ensure that nobody was left behind amid all the confusion, and mainly night-time travel. Eventually they all arrived safely home, but without most of their personal possessions or the scenery, costumes and scores for several ballets.

Even after they had recovered from that experience, times were not easy for the Sadler's Wells (later Royal) Ballet. The repertoire had to be maintained and replenished in spite of the constant loss of male dancers — and even the chief choreographer Frederick Ashton — to war service. And this with an itinerary of long tours all over Britain, interspersed with short London seasons, dancing seven or eight performances a week.

In an essay published in a pamphlet about *The Sleeping Beauty* in 1946, Joy Newton described her duties: devising rehearsal and class schedules to fit in with the dancers' other commitments; conducting rehearsals when the choreographer was not present, and attending all others to learn the new works; arranging replacements whenever a dancer was ill, injured or given another role (this task was complicated by questions of costume size and shortage of materials); besides acting as the centre of communications between all departments, wardrobe, scenery, music etc. Then there were innumerable lists to be made and amended.

She seems to have done jobs shared among at least half a dozen people today, but calmly wrote that "it is amazing how much work can be done in small corners and odd half-hours".

However, after the company's opening season at Covent Garden in 1946, Newton left to become the first teacher and principal of the ballet school which the Turkish Government had asked de Valois to set up in Istanbul. She stayed there from 1947 to 1951, and met her husband Walter Postlethwaite there. They married in 1949. She also went back later to help to mount *Giselle* and *Les Rendezvous* for dancers from the Turkish school, and taught at the Royal Ballet School in London from 1963 to 1969.

After her husband's death, she ran a small antique shop in Kent. Although both of them were long retired, she and her successor as ballet mistress at Covent Garden, Jean Bidells, reconstructed de Valois' ballet *Job* for Birmingham Royal Ballet to mark the work's 60th anniversary in 1991. She remained active despite her years, and her death was blessedly sudden, while working in her garden. She leaves no survivors.

Joy Newton in Frederick Ashton's *Apparitions*, 1937

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LEGAL NOTICES

No. 001925 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
YORKSHIRE CHEMICALS PLC
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 2nd April 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £16,260,000 to £15,960,000 by returning capital which is in excess of the wants of the Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard by Mr. Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2 on Wednesday the 1st May 1996.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED the 18th day of April 1996.
Messrs Booth & Co.
of P.O. Box 8, Sovereign House, South Parade, LEEDS LS1 1HQ
TEL: 0113 2832000
REF: Mr L S Dale
Solicitors for the Company.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ALFRED EDWARD SCOTT late of 128 Bellenden Road, Peckham, London SE15 Retired Managing Director died on 26 May 1995. Particulars to Herbottle & Lewis, Hanover House, 14 Hanover Square, London W1R 0BE. Executor Alfred Terance Scott. Claims before 24 June 1996.

ANNIE DAVENPORT of 20 Timbercliffe, Littleborough, Lancashire who died 2nd December 1995. Particulars to McDonald Richmond Solicitors of 165A High Street, Lees, Oldham OL4 4LY before 30th June 1996.

ELCHA CECILIA HARRISON also known as Elcha Cecelia Harrison late of Knoll House, Blickling Road, Aylsham, Norfolk and also 45c Prince's Gate, London SW7. Died 1st March 1996. Particulars to Mills & Reeve Solicitors 3-7 Redwell Street, Norwich NR2 4TJ before 21st June 1996.

HYDE PAUL MALCOLM late of 63 Glenangles Towers, Greenford Road, Southall, Middx who died 3rd January 1996. Particulars to Keith Hall Juvller & Co. 422 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middx UB6 9AG before 24th June 1996.

TRUSTEE ACTS

MANDER HARRY LOVAINE late of 2 Heron House, 372 Gurnell Grove, West Ealing, London W13 who died on 18th December 1995. Particulars to Paul Adam Lusk, Keith Hall Juvller & Co. 422 Greenford, Middx UB6 9AG before 24th June 1996.

MURIEL HONORIA HENZELL Late of Milton Hall, Milton Brampton, Cumbria (formerly of 1 Shelvers Green Shelvers Way, Tadworth, Surrey and of The Nook, Bitlardees, Silloth Cumbria (Widow). Died 19th August 1995. Particulars to Black Graf & Co. 14/15 College Crescent, London NW3 5LL before 21st June 1996.

O'CONNOR, BARNEY of 103 STERLING ROAD, LONDON N22 died on 3 DECEMBER 1992 particulars to BRYAN O'CONNOR & CO Solicitors of ST MARGARET'S HOUSE, 18/20 SOUTHWARK STREET, LONDON SE1 1TE before 21st JUNE 1996.

PITT, JOYCE MARY AUGAR of DELVES HOUSE, 31 QUEENS GATE TERRACE, KENSINGTON, LONDON died on 9 MARCH 1996 particulars to DIXON WARD Solicitors of 16 THE GREEN, RICHMOND, SURREY TW9 1QD before 21 JUNE 1996

ROBINSON, EDNA ESTAVIA of 2 HARLESCOTT ROAD, NUNHEAD, LONDON SE15 died on 28 OCTOBER 1995 particulars to HEPBURNS Solicitors of BLENHEIM HOUSE, BLENHEIM GROVE, PECKHAM, LONDON SE15 4QX before 21 JUNE 1996

SHEPHERD, FREDERICK ROBERT of 276A BARRY ROAD, EAST DULWICH, LONDON SE22 died on 28 DECEMBER 1995 particulars to HEPBURNS Solicitors of BLENHEIM HOUSE, BLENHEIM GROVE, PECKHAM, LONDON SE15 4QX before 21 JUNE 1996.

ON THIS DAY

April 20, 1920

Infringements of the gambling regulations of Ostend resulted in the keeper of the Ostend Club falling foul of the law. The town profited largely by income derived from the gaming tables

GAMBLING AT OSTEND.

SENTENCE ON A CLUB PROPRIETOR.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BRUSSELS, APRIL 19.

The Bruges Correctional Tribunal, which corresponds roughly to our quarter sessions, gave judgment yesterday in a case of the greatest interest, not only to the English and others who have been accustomed to find at Ostend those gambling facilities which form for many the chief attraction of that typical Continental watering-place, but to all who regard it as an agreeable seaside resort. M. Marquet, the keeper of the Ostend Club, who was recently prosecuted for infringements of the law against games of chance, has been found guilty and sentenced to three separate months' imprisonment, and three fines of £40 with respect to each of the years 1905, 1906, and 1907. Costs are given against him, with, in default, an additional month's imprisonment, and the club furniture has been confiscated.

The two main points to be decided were whether the Cercle Privé was really a private club, and whether baccarat, as played there, was a game in which the chances were in favour of the bank. On the first point the Court holds that Marquet systematically exploited the tables for profit, and that the conditions of the members' club were a blind. On the second point the Court finds that the bank had an advantage—a conclusion which would seem to be confirmed by the enormous profits made by it. Unless this decision is reversed on the probable appeal, gambling will be suspended at Ostend for the second time during recent years. Honest *bourgeois*, who can enjoy the seaside without adventitious aids, will welcome this, for there is no doubt that of the million visitors during the season, a large proportion were of a class which rendered the place unsuitable for young people. On the other hand, the town profited largely by the income derived from the tables, and some municipal witnesses went so far as to say that, without gambling, Ostend would be ruined. This seems an extreme view, but it may be doubted whether the decision will commend itself to those even higher circles which regarded the development of Ostend as a proper object for the expenditure of the revenue received from the Congo rubber forests. It will be remembered that among the works intended by the Sovereign-Founder to be carried out by the Fondation de la Couronne were "the creation at Ostend of the museum promised to the town, the establishment of a great covered hall intended for agricultural, horse, and cattle shows, the joining, by an architectural *ensemble*, of the Rue Royale with the quarters of the Galleries and Hippodrome, in such a way as to make Ostend, a few hours from London, a bathing city unique in the world." Now that the Fondation de la Couronne is suppressed, Belgium is called upon to spend over £811,000 on these particular works of embellishmente, and many Belgians would prefer to spend the money otherwise.

ELECTROBUS TRIP TO BRIGHTON. - An electrobus, of the type which is now being used on certain routes in London, having been ordered for a local service at Brighton, was the subject yesterday of an interesting experimental trip to demonstrate that this type of omnibus is capable of carrying from London to Brighton a full complement of passengers with only one charge of electricity. The omnibus made a rapid run via Streatham to Redhill, where a halt had to be made for some time owing to the overheating of one of the axles. The omnibus, when restarted, went satisfactorily until a point some little distance from Crawley, when overheating again occurred, and a wheel was taken off and adjusted. After this the omnibus slowly proceeded to Crawley ...

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

NEWS

Traitor Blake gets memoir royalties

■ The Government reacted with astonishment when a High Court judge ruled that George Blake, the traitor who lives in Moscow, should be allowed to receive £90,000 in royalties from his memoirs. Sir Richard Scott's judgment cast doubt on the Government's policy of binding members of the intelligence and security services to lifelong silence.................Page 1

Israel warns Jews of revenge attacks

■ *Israel warned all Jewish citizens travelling abroad and Jewish* institutions overseas to be on guard against revenge attacks after Thursday's massacre of Arabs sheltering at a United Nations *base in southern Lebanon. In Moscow, world leaders* backed diplomatic efforts to stop the fighting.............**Pages 1, 12, 13, 21**

Rugby victim wins

A rugby player won a legal battle against the referee he blamed for leaving him paralysed. He had sued for £1 million: damages will be decided later..........**Pages 1, 20**

In good heart

The latest recipient of a mechanical heart, which obviates the need for a human transplant, pedalled *an exercise bicycle and looked for*ward to tangoing ....**Page 4**

Farmer's £10m legacy

A reclusive bachelor farmer from Somerset has been left £10 million in the will of his aunt, the wife of a brewing magnate..............**Page 5**

The Queen is 70

The Queen will celebrate her 70th birthday at Sandringham and Windsor tomorrow with family and close friends.........**Pages 7, 21**

Off the road

Ministers have scrapped plans to privatise the entire main road network.............................**Page 8**

Historic thefts

Thefts from historic properties are increasing and only 78 objects have been recovered of the thousand or so stolen during the past five years ....**Page 9**

Spooky stay

Investigators of the paranormal are to spend four days and nights monitoring and filming ghosts at *Chillingham Castle in* Northumberland.............**Page 10**

Going for Gold

Atlanta is scrambling to prepare for the Olympic Games, which open on July 19, after rains have delayed construction.........**Page 11**

Major backs Yeltsin

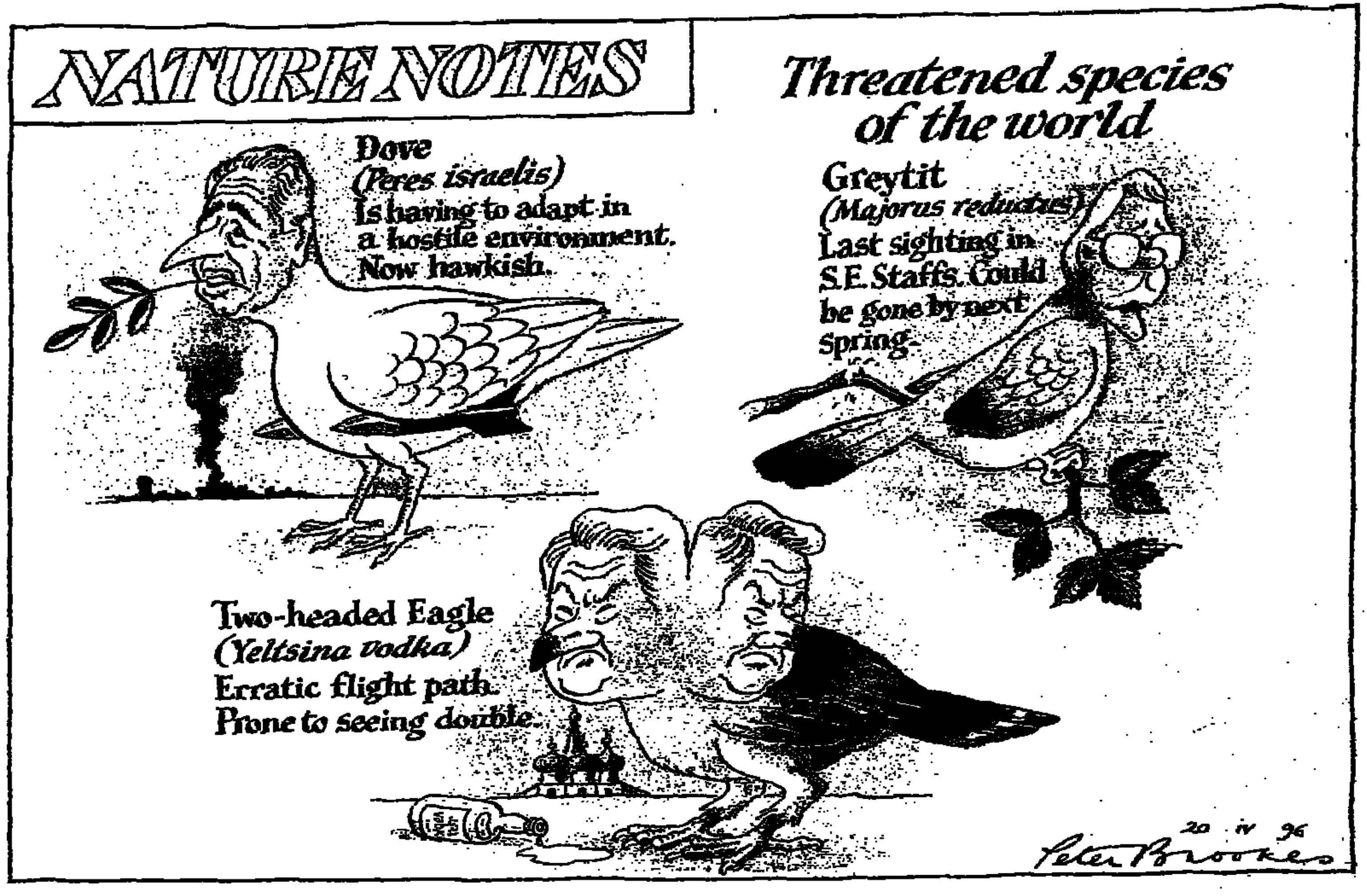
John Major gave tacit backing to Boris Yeltsin in his campaign to win the Russian presidential election..............................**Page 14**

Italian poll poser

Italy's election appears too close to call, with many voters saying they intended to abstain ....**Page 15**

Ballerina looks askance at Look!

■ *Look!*, the Tories' breezy new tabloid designed to trumpet the Government's achievements, dismayed several people featured in it, including Darcy Bussell. Scunthorpe United football club *and a businessman who said he could not vote* Tory ...... **Page 1**



OPINION

Long to reign: Tomorrow the Queen will be 70 and the nation will have rich cause to celebrate .... **Page 21**

Amber alert: Politically, this is the right time for Britain to stand up for Hong Kong on legal principle.......... **Page 21**

Child benefit: Labour's scheme is a sensible redirection of resources....... **Page 21**

THE PAPERS

Surely Lebanon and Syria understand by now the cost of indulging Hezbollah. All *sides must* suspend the fighting — *The New York Times*

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Most reasonable people will be gasping at the decision in the case of the rugby referee........... **Page 20**

Giles Worsley: the millennium wheel proposed for the South Bank is portrayed as an altruistic gesture. But we will not be allowed to forget that it was British Airways that gave it to us ...... **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Kalim Siddiqui, the Muslim Institute; **Canon Peter Gillingham**, Chaplain to the Queen, 1952-84; **Joy Newton**, Royal Ballet............. **Page 23**

BUSINESS

Power: Hanson's Eastern Group was poised to buy power stations worth more *than £1.3 billion* ...... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index closed at 3857.1, up 36.4 points. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.6 to 83.9 after a fall from $1.5292 to $1.5173 but a rise from *DM2.2560* to DM2.2858 .... **Page 28**

LETTERS

Labour policies; the 1963 premiership; destruction of art; Israel; libraries at risk; BR logo .... **Page 21**

SPORT

Cricket: Michael Atherton will resume the England captaincy with an optimism diffi*cult to contemplate after the* World Cup ....**Page 48**

Athletics: Britain's leading men should play a prominent part in the Flora London Marathon, potentially the most absorbing race in its 16-year history..............**Page 48**

Football: The Football Association will not change En*gland's multicoloured away* goalkeeper's kit........**Page 48**

Golf: Colin Montgomerie rediscovers form in the United States ....**Page 47**

ARTS

London's win: "To say that the lion's share of lottery handouts has been swiped by London would be to slander the communal generosity of big cats," Richard Morrison writes ....**Page 17**

Following Fonda: Kevin Whately takes up the Henry Fonda role in *Twelve Angry Men* .... **Page 19**

Cellist's premieres: *Mstislav Rostropovich is to* premiere concertos by two British composers with the London Symphony Orchestra............ **Page 19**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Bachelor of Arts: Matthew Parris meets Ian McKellen.........**Pages 8-13**
David Starkey: The death of England.......**Page 16-18**

WEEKEND

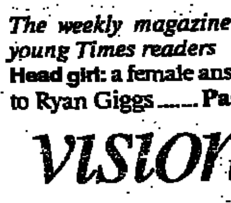
Lost heritage: Treasures in churches.......**Pages 1-2**

Property: Buying on a British island.........**Page 8**
Going out: Weekend activities........ **Pages 14, 15**

10 15

The weekly magazine for young Times readers
Head girl: a female answer to Ryan Giggs....... **Page 6**

VISION



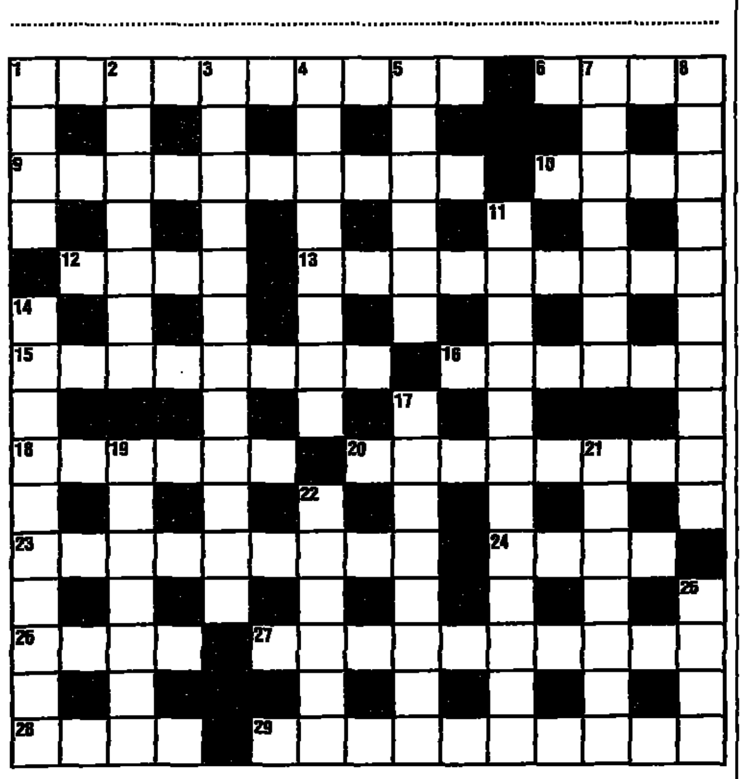
***The Queen's 70th:** Princess to Queen* (tomorrow, BBC1, 4.10pm) and *Happy Birthday Ma'am* (tomorrow, ITV, 6pm)

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,147

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



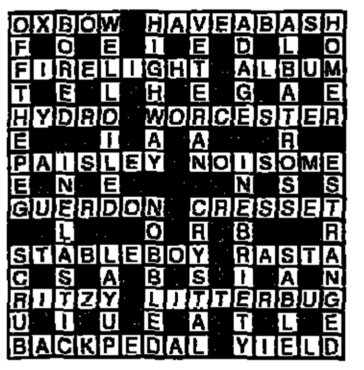
ACROSS

- 1 Make good partners, getting highest mark in contest (10).
- 6 Tough and hard in a small boat (4).
- 9 A goose, a goat, and an ass (5-5).
- 10 Neighbourhood north from stadium (4).
- 12 We may hear a lot from this social gathering (4).
- 13 Proper sign to follow in US elections (9).
- 15 Ungainfully occupied girl shut up (8).
- 16 Ravel piece of jacket (6).
- 18 Layoff affected this part of Ireland (6).
- 20 Travel document needed while away at seaside? (8).
- 23 Guilelessness shown previously, taking in church after pub (9).
- 24 Sailor disheartened lady? Well! (4).
- 26 I remove from bed cut flower (4).
- 27 Transfer of soldiers that's ending after short time (10).
- 28 Almost dark, but not quite (4).
- 29 How minister should behave in life, according to speech (10).

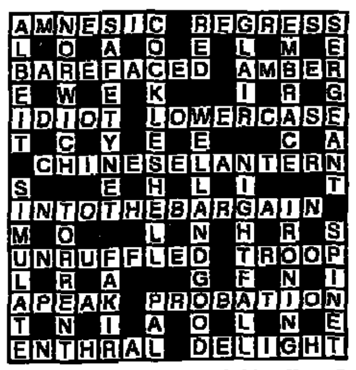
DOWN

- 1 Damage to deal with in firm way (4).
- 2 Hammer he has left in America (7).
- 3 Where foreign president lives – or Cambridgeshire bishop? (6,6).
- 4 Asleep after second form of exercise (8).
- 5 Hard to believe one's a composer (6).
- 7 Brave woman getting horse over fence, finally (7).
- 8 Ordinary members provide information on essentials (5,5).
- 11 It helps to raise a climber, or an American plant (6,6).
- 14 Station where I'm on duty (10).
- 17 Keep in job one sharing our secrets? (8).
- 19 Providing barrier for protection in dangerous sport? (7).
- 21 How to minimise friction in boring work (3-4).
- 22 Girl lost in strange land (6).
- 25 *Stop or postpone?* (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,141


OXBOW HAVEABASH
FIRELIGHT ALBUM
HYDRO WORCESTER
PAISLEY NOISOME
GUERDON CRESSET
STABLEBOY RASTA
RITZY LITTERBUG
BACKPEDAL YIELD

Solution to Puzzle No 20,146


AMNESIC REGRESS
BAREFACED AMBER
IDIOT LOWERCASE
CHINESELANTERN
INTOTHEBARGAIN
UNRUFFLED TROOP
APEAK PROBATION
ENTHRAL DELIGHT

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *S E Kidd, St Andrews, Fife; C Callander, Tonbridge, Kent; D Frise, Glenavon Park, Bristol; B Wilcock, Manafon, Welshpool; J E Frost, St Edmunds, Suffolk.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute *(cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other* times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.54 am	8.06 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
10.56 am	7.27 am

First quarter April 25

London 8.06 pm to 5.52 am
Bristol 8.16 pm to 6.02 am
Edinburgh 8.30 pm to 5.52 am
Manchester 8.19 pm to 5.55 am
Penzance 8.24 pm to 6.17 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.52 am	8.08 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
11.52 pm	8.08 am

First quarter April 25

London 8.08 pm to 5.50 am
Bristol 8.17 pm to 6.00 am
Edinburgh 8.32 pm to 5.50 am
Manchester 8.21 pm to 5.53 am
Penzance 8.26 pm to 6.15 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.01	7.2	3.24	7.2
Aberdeen	2.29	4.1	2.46	4.1
Avonmouth	8.37	13.4	8.50	13.2
Belfast	0.24	3.5	12.47	3.5
Cardiff	8.33	12.4	8.49	12.1
Devonport	7.12	5.4	7.23	5.4
Dover	0.16	6.8	12.36	6.7
Dublin (N Wall)	0.39	3.9	1.01	3.9
Falmouth	6.32	5.2	6.56	5.1
Greenock	1.44	3.4	2.11	3.4
Harwich	0.56	4.0	1.20	3.9
Holyhead	11.42	5.5	11.57	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	7.36	7.3	7.53	7.5
Ilfracombe	7.24	9.4	7.38	9.3
King's Lynn	7.36	6.8	7.55	6.8
Leith	3.52	5.5	4.15	5.5
Liverpool	0.18	9.3	12.41	9.3
Lowestoft	10.52	2.3	11.11	2.4
Margate	1.22	4.8	1.43	4.7
Milford Haven	7.34	7.0	7.49	6.9
Newquay	6.21	6.9	6.38	6.8
Oban	6.56	3.9	7.04	3.9
Penzance	5.58	5.5	6.15	5.5
Portland	8.15	2.1	9.28	2.1
Portsmouth	0.33	4.7	12.55	4.6
Shoreham	0.33	6.4	12.55	6.2
Southampton	-	-	12.09	4.4
Swansea	7.44	9.5	7.56	9.4
Tees	4.54	5.3	5.12	5.3
Walton-on-Naze	0.53	4.2	1.17	4.1

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Gravesend, Kent, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 09C (48F); highest rainfall: Glasgow, 0.44in; highest sunshine: Aspatria, Cumbria, 11.9hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Northernmost England will have a cloudy day with patchy rain. Remaining parts of England and Wales will also be rather cloudy at times but with some warm brighter spells at times. Through the afternoon showers are likely to develop, however and more general rain will spread to the west later. Northern Ireland and much of Scotland will be cloudy with *rain at times. Brighter weather with a* few showers in the far north should slowly edge north.

☐ **London, SE & E England, E Anglia, Central S & Central N England, Midlands, Channel Isles, N Wales, NW England:** cloudy, brightness at times but showers *developing, some heavy and possibly* thundery. Warm. Wind south to southeasterly light to moderate. Max 18C.

☐ **SW England, S Wales:** rather cloudy but some brightness for a time, later showers which will turn to more persistent rain later. Warm. Wind moderate south to southeasterly. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England:** mostly cloudy with some patchy rain at first, becoming drier and brighter. Wind light to moderate southerly. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Northern Ireland:** cloudy with rain at times becoming *drier and brighter from the south.* Wind light southerly. Max 14C.

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mainly dry with bright spells, es*pecially at first. Wind moderate south* to southwesterly becoming light southeasterly. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain in north will move south, with showers in the south.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

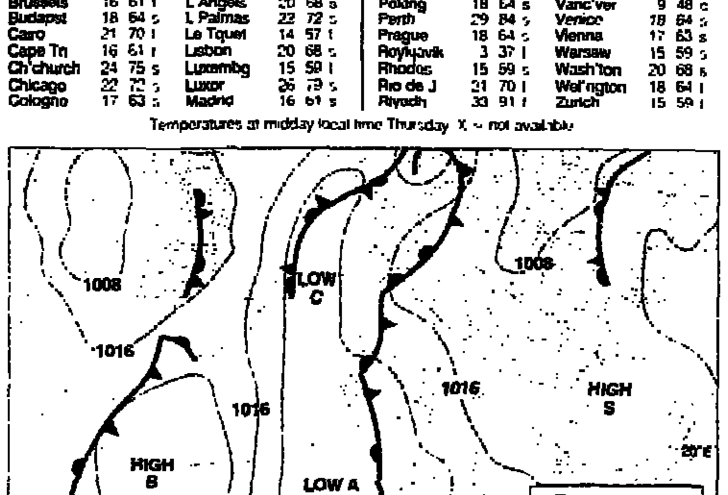
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Anglesey	11.3	-	12	54	s	Littlehmptn	2.9	-	13	55	b
Aspatria	11.9	0.01	13	55	s	Liverpool	X				
Aviemore	9.7	0.10	12	54	sh	London	0.1	0.01	15	59	b
Belfast	8.3	0.02	14	57	sh	Lowestoft	2.9	0.01	12	54	b
Birmingham	3.2	0.07	13	55	b	Manchester	5.7	0.01	15	59	b
Bognor R	2.6	-	13	55	b	Margate	5.4	-	17	63	b
Bournem'th	0.9	0.12	12	54	d	Minehead	0.2	0.11	12	54	r
Buxton	3.3	0.16	15	59	s	Morecambe	10.3	0.01	14	57	s
Cardiff	3.2	0.14	11	52	r	Newcastle	9.8	-	15	59	s
Clacton	6.6	-	10	50	s	Newquay	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Norwich	-	0.02	15	59	c
Colwyn Bay	9.5	0.01	15	59	s	Plymouth	X				
Cromer	-	0.01	14	57	d	Poole	1.0	0.08	15	59	c
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	0.01	14	57	b
Eastbourne	8.6	-	14	57	s	Ross-o-wye	3.2	0.06	13	55	s
Edinburgh	10.7	0.02	15	59	sh	Ryde	0.9	-	14	57	b
Eskdalemuir	1.6	0.13	10	50	sh	Salcombe	-	0.28	11	52	du
Exmouth	-	0.11	10	50	c	Sandown	1.7	0.01	13	55	b
Falmouth	X					Saunton Snd	1.6	0.12	13	55	b
Fishguard	7.7	0.01	13	55	sh	Scarboro'	9.4	0.02	15	59	s
Folkestone	6.9	-	14	57	b	Shanklin	X	-	14	57	b
Glasgow	9.7	0.44	14	57	sh	Shrewsbury	5.6	0.01	14	57	b
Guernsey	X					Southend	X	-	15	59	du
Hastings	7.2	-	14	57	s	Southport	7.7	-	15	59	s
Hayling I.	2.2	-	11	52	b	Southsea	1.0	0.01	13	55	c
Herne Bay	5.3	-	16	61	b	St. Ives	X				
Hove	7.2	-	12	54	b	Stornoway	2.2	0.18	10	50	sh
Hunstanton	0.8	0.08	13	55	c	Swanage	1.4	0.09	12	54	d
Ilfracombe	X	0.01	13	55	du	Teignmouth	0.1	0.11	10	50	sh
Isle of Man	11.0	-	12	54	s	Tiree	5.1	0.02	11	52	sh
Jersey	6.5	-	17	63	f	Torquay	0.1	0.16	12	54	r
Leeds	8.8	0.05	15	59	s	Tynemouth	-	-	15	59	s
Lerwick	9.7	0.01	11	52	s	Ventnor	2.7	-	13	55	b
Leuchars	10.4	0.05	14	57	sh	Weymouth	1.5	0.04	12	54	b

ABROAD

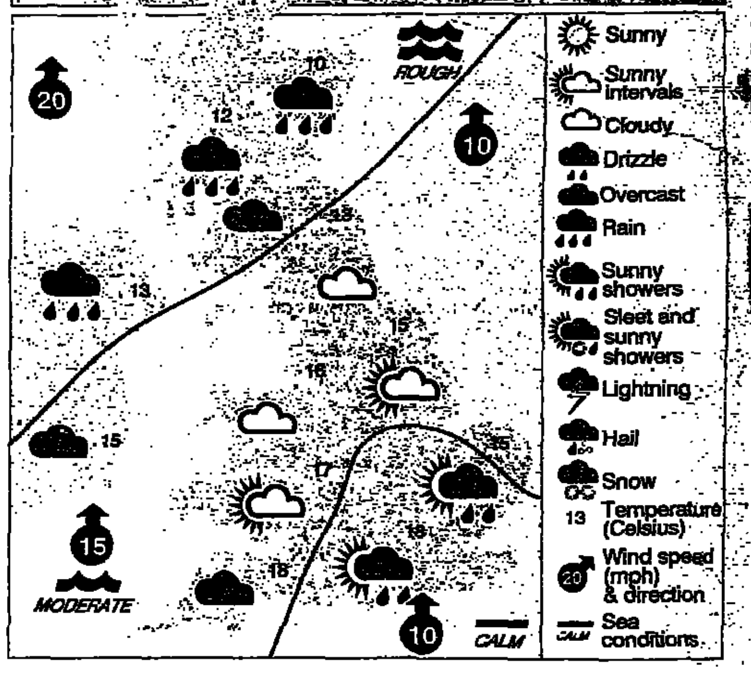
Ajaccio	18	64	s	Corfu	17	63	f	Majorca	19	66	f	Rome	18	64	s
Akrotiri	16	61	c	C'phagn	11	52	s	Malaga	20	68	c	S Fr'isco	14	57	s
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Dublin	12	54	f	Malta	17	63	c	S Paulo	17	63	c
Algiers	19	64	f	Dubrovnik	15	59	s	Melb'rne	12	54	r	Salzburg	17	63	s
Amst'dm	15	59	s	Faro	22	72	s	Mexico C	23	73	s	Santiago	21	70	s
Athens	16	61	f	Florence	23	73	f	Miami	26	79	s	Seoul	14	57	s
B Aires	X	X	X	Frankfurt	17	63	s	Milan	20	68	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	27	81	s	Funchal	18	64	c	Montreal	9	48	X	St'kholm	16	61	s
Bangkok	35	95	s	Geneva	15	59	s	Moscow	5	41	c	Strasb'rg	15	59	c
Barbados	30	86	s	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Munich	17	63	f	Sydney	17	63	c
Barcelona	17	63	s	Helsinki	4	39	c	N Delhi	36	97	s	Tangier	21	70	s
Beirut	17	63	f	Hong K	X	X	X	N York	16	61	s	Tel Aviv	19	66	f
Belgrade	16	61	s	Innsbrck	18	64	f	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tenerife	21	70	f
Berlin	20	68	s	Istanbul	X	X	X	Naples	20	68	s	Tokyo	17	63	s
Bermuda	20	68	s	Jeddah	34	93	s	Nice	17	63	s	Toronto	13	55	s
Biarritz	16	61	s	Jo'burg	19	66	f	Oslo	10	50	s	Tunis	14	57	r
Borde'x	17	63	c	Karachi	X	X	X	Paris	16	61	f	Valencia	20	68	s
Brussels	16	61	f	L Angels	20	68	s	Peking	18	64	s	Vanc'ver	9	48	c
Budapst	18	64	s	L Palmas	22	72	s	Perth	29	84	s	Venice	18	64	s
Cairo	21	70	f	Le Touqt	14	57	f	Prague	18	64	s	Vienna	17	63	s
Cape Tn	16	61	r	Lisbon	20	68	s	Reykjavik	3	37	f	Warsaw	15	59	s
Ch'church	24	75	s	Luxembg	15	59	f	Rhodes	15	59	s	Wash'ton	20	68	s
Chicago	22	72	s	Luxor	26	79	s	Rio de J	21	70	f	Wel'ngton	18	64	f
Cologne	17	63	s	Madrid	16	61	s	Riyadh	33	91	f	Zurich	15	59	f

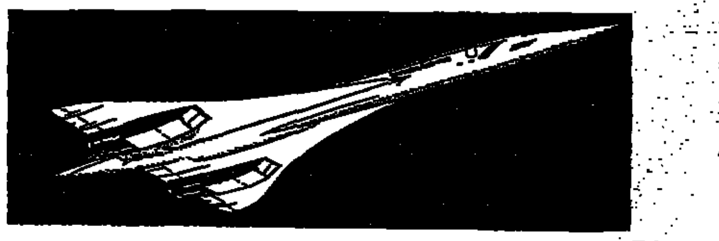
Temperatures at midday local time Thursday. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low A will move northeast slowly; low C will also transfer northeast; high B will decline in situ; and high S will remain stationary

NOON TODAY





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